

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 5

November, 1900

No. 9

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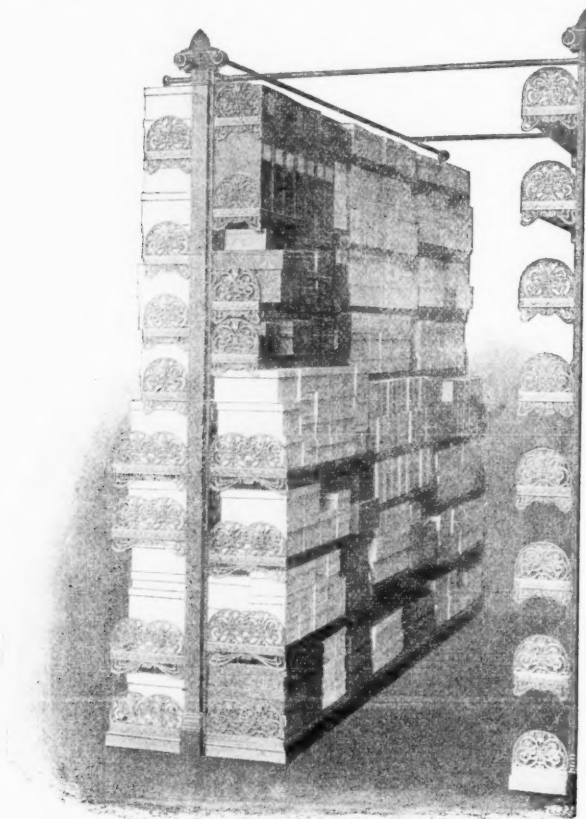
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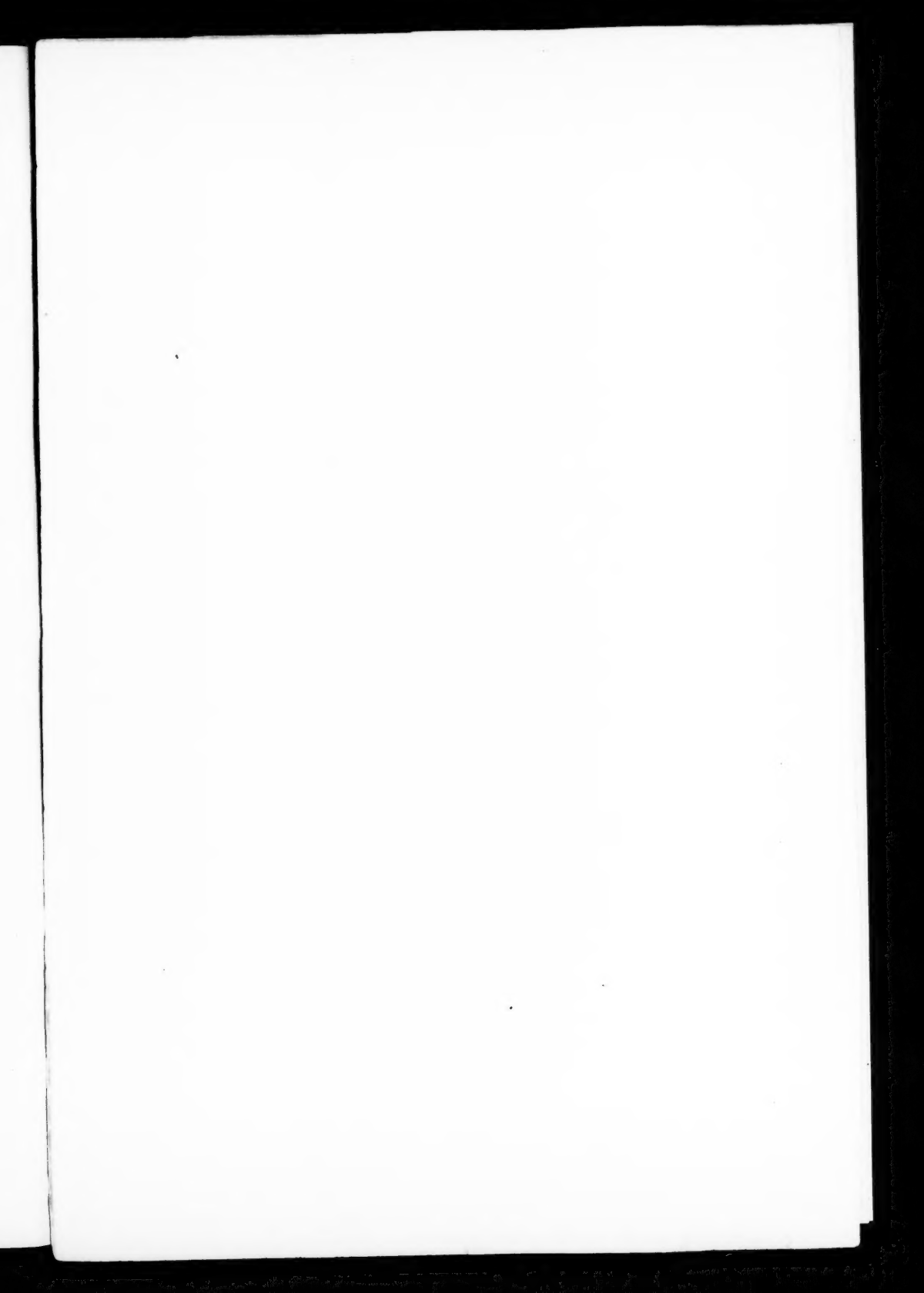
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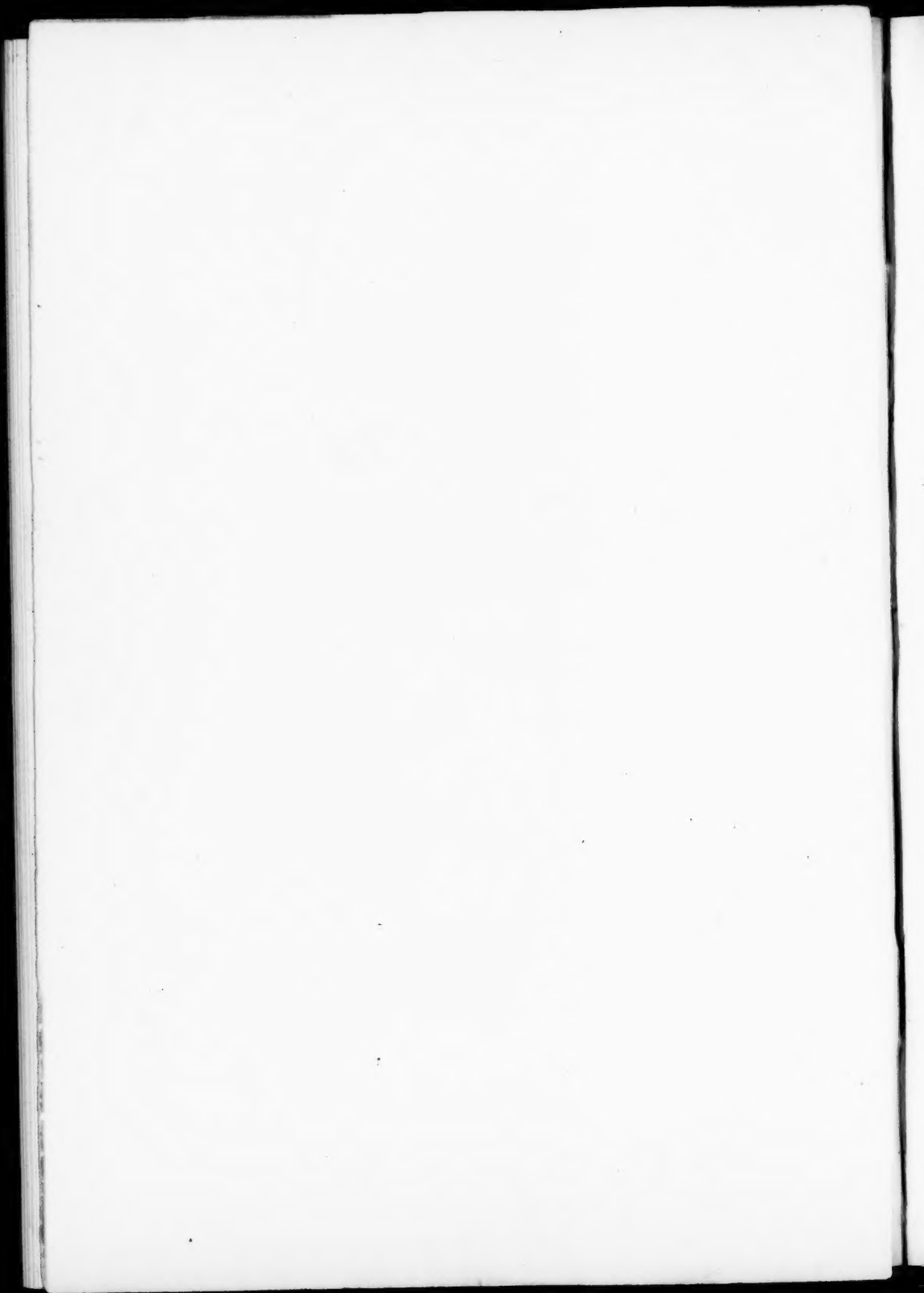


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Proceedings of Sixth Annual Meeting of the Ohio Library Association

The sixth annual meeting of the Ohio Library association was held at Zanesville, Ohio, Oct. 3 to 5, 1900. An informal reception was held at the Clarendon hotel on the evening of October 2. This reception was given by the Zanesville people, many of whom were present with the visiting librarians and trustees. A delightful evening was spent.

The opening meeting of the association was held in Memorial hall at 9.30 Wednesday morning. Charles Orr, the president, opened with the following address:

President Orr's address

We have reached the sixth annual meeting without a break in the steady march of progress begun at our first gathering at Columbus in 1895.

These meetings have been held in various parts of the state, and the membership and interest has grown with each year and each meeting. The library movement, though now generally recognized as one of the potent agencies which foster the higher life of the community, is yet so young that one may ask when the library association is presented for the first time, What does it mean? We are met here in annual session, an assembly of workers in a field which I venture to say offers today as wide an opportunity for usefulness as may be found in any other calling. And I venture to say further, that in no other field of human endeavor, or service, is there a more earnest desire

to do good than will be found among those engaged in library work. Speaking for ourselves as an association, one who has large opportunities to observe the working of similar organizations in other states has attributed the growth of our Ohio association in numbers (and as I hope in influence) to the fact that we, as members, have had no motives or ambitions aside from the general advancement of the library interests of the state, and that we have worked harmoniously with only that end in view. I believe this to be the explanation, and considering the nature of our work, and that each member is necessarily busy and absorbed in his own duties, with little time to spare and often with little means to travel, the attendance and interest in our meetings has been remarkable. We are happy, too, to have the testimony of competent witnesses that these meetings have been helpful to the communities in which we have met as well as to ourselves; for in addition to the promotion of fraternal relations among librarians and those interested in library work, and that exchange of ideas so helpful to all, we have, I believe, not overlooked the other objects of the association, viz., to encourage the establishment of new libraries in every locality, and to increase the usefulness and efficiency of those already established.

What of the future? Shall we remain passive as an organization, or in what way will we now direct our energies to accomplish the greatest good. Shall it be merely in our own self-improvement, in the preparation and discussion of papers strictly on subjects

of library economy? These are good, and I hope we will always have enough on our program to bring out the best individual experience and ability. But this second object of our association—our duty to the communities which still lack the civilizing and refining influence of the library—I believe this should be our greatest concern, at least for the immediate future.

The library extension committee has, after more than two years of hard work and perseverance, gathered a vast amount of information as to the library conditions and needs of the state. Without going into detail I can say from a knowledge of the evidence at hand that the need is great. It is apparent from this report, and from information gathered by the State library commission, that we have, with all our boasted wealth and intelligence, scarcely more than 50 free, tax supported libraries in Ohio.

It is true that in addition to these few free libraries, supported by taxation, the state is dotted here and there with libraries maintained in other ways, as by subscription or endowment. But though there is in most communities among intelligent people a cordial recognition of the library, there are still great stretches of our territory without libraries of any kind.

The State library commission, which we might claim as the outgrowth of this association has, during the past four years, blazed the way for a greater work which is to follow. It has under authority granted by the state established a system of traveling libraries which is doing excellent service. About 1500 of these libraries have been sent out since the organization of the system, and it is estimated that over 400,000v. of the best reading have reached the people in this way. The cost to the state has been very small, and there has been little or no disposition on the part of the legislature to withhold appropriations so far as the system is understood. And I believe the state will be liberal in its support of a more complete and comprehensive system of library extension,

when this association has definitely settled upon what is needed. But we must, as in other things, act wisely. To this end I recommend the most careful deliberation during the year, and that this may be started at this meeting. Such recommendations as we may adopt at our next regular meeting will have great weight with the legislature, which will convene shortly after that meeting, and the work of the association and extension committee may thus bear fruit. The committee on legislation, to be appointed by the next president, should, I think, be composed of members who are willing to give time to a study of existing laws and needed legislation.

I think it proper to mention here another need, and one which is already pressing; I refer to a state library building. Our state, which has provided so liberally for the housing of her institutions, should have a state library building commensurate with its own greatness and with the importance of the work which the library designed for all the people of the state is expected to do. To secure this will require effort and organization, and the initiative must be taken by this association. A proper measure would be the appointment of a special committee, which might confer with the State library commission as to the best means of presenting the matter to the next legislature, the committee to make a full report at our next meeting.

A word of congratulation in closing. The year 1900 marks not only the high water mark in the membership of our association, but in general library growth throughout the state. Existing libraries are in the main in a flourishing condition, and new libraries have been established in various parts of the state. We enter the new century with the assurance that the library will continue to hold its place among all that is best.

Secretary's report

The secretary's report was called for. Miss Mercer, the secretary, asked to be excused from giving a formal report, as full proceedings of the last annual meeting at Toledo were published in

PUBLIC LIBRARIES for October, 1899. The secretary stated that the executive committee had sent out an unusual amount of printed matter during the year, but as the report on library extension would give the progress of the work in Ohio, and all printed matter has been received by members of the association, the usual secretary's report was not needed.

The treasurer's report was read by Kittie Sherwood.

Treasurer's report ending October, 1900

A marked increase is shown in our list of members. From 196 we have grown to 287, a growth of 88 members since our meeting in Toledo in August, 1899. We report the addition of one club membership, the Current event club of Bucyrus; one active associate membership, Miss Eastman of Cleveland; one library membership, the McClymond public library of Massillon.

The membership is listed on cards, alphabetically arranged, showing the position each occupies, whether librarian, assistant, cataloger, active members, etc., and again listed by towns, showing the members from each. In this list 52 towns are represented. Cleveland has a membership of 51, and Cincinnati 42.

While the expenses have been rather heavy this year, a glance over the printed matter that has been distributed would indicate it has been money well spent.

The finances stand as follows:

Balance in treasury from last year....	\$ 33.19
From membership dues this year....	106.00
Total.....	\$139.19
An itemized list shows the expenditures to be.....	133.98
Showing a balance in the treasury of	\$5.21

Respectfully submitted,

KITTIE M. SHERWOOD,

Treasurer.

The report from the auditing committee was given by Mr Hensel, who said that the treasurer's report was correct, and added that as long as Miss Sherwood continued her duties as treasurer there was no danger of the Ohio Library association being short of funds.

The president appointed the different committees as follows: On nomination, Mr Randall, Mr Brett, Nanna Newton; on time and place of next meeting, Mrs Mack, Miss Burrowes, and Miss Mercer.

The reports of the chairmen of the different committees was next in order.

Mr Galbreath of Columbus read the report of Mr McGrew, chairman of the committee on legislation.

Report of committee on legislation

When the Seventy-fourth general assembly convened, conditions were not favorable for the enactment of important library legislation. Many of the members of both houses were serving their first term. This was especially true of the members of the library committees. Measures of overshadowing importance, backed by powerful interests, were up for consideration. After taking a careful survey of the field, it was the opinion of the chairman of your committee on legislation that it would be wise to ask for little. This was done, with the result that the little asked for is now on the statute books, just as introduced, with a single exception.

The first of the bills introduced provided for the labeling and binding of state documents, as follows:

Be it enacted by the general assembly of the state of Ohio: That the official documents, known as the executive documents, to be published hereafter, shall be bound in volumes of about 1000 pages each, with the table of contents of each stamped on the back of the respective volumes, and that each of the official documents known as the executive documents, and each volume of the house journal, and each volume of the senate journal, shall have placed upon the back of the same, as part of its label, the word Ohio.

The second measure was introduced in the form of a joint resolution. It will be found on page 756 of the laws of last session, and reads as follows:

Whereas, No detailed account of the condition and work of the public libraries of Ohio has ever been published; and

Whereas, The publication of such information would encourage library extension in Ohio as it has done in other states; therefore

Be it resolved by the general assembly of the state of Ohio, that the Board of library com-

missioners is hereby authorized to prepare and have printed, in addition to their regular report for the year 1900, sketches of the public libraries of the state, with such other information relating thereto as can be obtained, and that not exceeding 1500 copies of the same be printed for distribution by the said Board of library commissioners.

This authorizes the library commissioners to carry out the request made by this association one year ago. Unfortunately it provides no money for illustrations or the employment of clerical assistance in the preparation of the sketches. Provision was made for both of these items in the original bill. The expense of illustration falls upon the libraries, the clerical work goes to the state librarian, who out of the abundant leisure at his command between sunset and midnight, has undertaken to compile this manual, which he hopes to make a thing of beauty and a joy forever. It may not be out of place here to say that the work is now in progress. Reports have been received from over 100 libraries, and cuts are reaching the office of the compiler in satisfactory quantity and quality. Up to date 52 free public libraries have been found in the state, and a somewhat careful survey of the field warrants the assertion that not more than 60 of these will be found in the state. We hope to have cuts of each. In Ohio the free library is so rare as to be quite a curiosity.

No other library laws of a general character were passed by the Seventy-fourth general assembly. Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton, and Toledo were fortunate in securing an increase of levy, and there was no attempt to disturb existing legislation.

The library committees of the legislature, before the close of the session, manifested much interest in some of the library problems of the day. It is hoped that they may again serve on these committees, for there is much to encourage the belief that the next general assembly will be in a mood to help the educational interests of the state through the extension of library privileges. At the next annual meeting of this association it should determine

what legislation is desired and what we may reasonably hope to secure; and having done this, all interests should work together vigorously but discreetly to put upon the statute books those acts which will help us toward the realization of our best ideals.

J. F. MCGREW, Chairman.

Mr Brett, chairman of the committee on library training, read the interesting report which follows, and at its close called on Miss Jones of the State university library, Mr Root of the Oberlin college library, and Mr Williams of the Adelbert college library, to add a few words from their experiences.

Report of committee on library training

To the Ohio Library association:

As the association has not until the present put the subject of library training formally into the hands of a committee, it seems advisable to the committee to sum up briefly in this report what has been done to provide technical training for library work in this state, and thus furnish the data for an intelligent consideration of present needs and future work.

There is no regular library school in the state giving a full year's course. In 1896 a training class was established in the Dayton public library for the benefit of members of its own force and some others who were applicants for positions in that library. The instruction was given by the librarian and head cataloger of the library.

The course was progressive, and occupied two consecutive years. The class consisted of seven persons, three being assistants in the library. An account of this class is given in the reports of the librarian for 1896-97, 1897-98. This gives full details of the work, of the conditions under which it was done, and the results in improved library service. Three of the applicants for library positions who took the training were subsequently regularly employed by the library.

In December, 1896, a course of 12 lectures of two hours each was given in the Cleveland public library by Kath-

erine L. Sharp, director of the Illinois State library school, to a class consisting of 39 members of this library staff, divided into two sections. The lectures were of much permanent value to the library service.

There have been, so far as the committee is informed, three summer courses, given as follows:

One in the summer of 1898 by Dr G. E. Wire, as an individual enterprise, but given in the Ohio State university and announced in connection with the othersummer courses of the university. This school was attended by 10 persons, of whom four are now engaged in library work in this state.

One in the summer of 1898, in the Cleveland public library, the instruction being given by Esther Crawford, head cataloger of the Dayton public library, and by members of the Cleveland public library staff, with several lectures from visiting librarians. The class was limited to 25, 19 of whom were members of the library force, and many additional applications for membership were necessarily refused. There were given 104 lectures during the six weeks, and five hours a day was devoted to practice work.

A similar course was carried on during this last summer in the same library, and with nearly the same corps of instructors.

Some colleges, as the Ohio State university, Oberlin, and the Western Reserve university, have pupil assistants who are systematically trained to do library work by instruction and practice given in the library. In addition to this, the same colleges and others give courses of instruction intended to aid those who are using the library. These are not intended to train for library work, and only instruct in library methods so far as they may be valuable to the reading and intellectual use of the library. The following courses, as given at Oberlin, are typical of this class of instruction. They are outlined in the words of the librarian, as follows:

"I offer three courses: One in the use of libraries, which goes into library

methods so far as the reader and user of libraries needs to understand them, taking up library buildings, methods of registration, use of catalogs, various forms of classification, etc. The second course is one in elementary bibliography, taking up the principal national and special bibliographies, together with encyclopedias and handbooks of general information. The next term a course in the history of printing is given, which covers the discussion as to the origin of printing, and also discusses the principal printers and their characteristics.

"I regard this work of great value, and am surprised that more such work is not offered in our colleges and universities; but it is, as you see, not at all intended to help the would-be librarian, but is purely for the benefit of the average man. Besides this work, I usually have two or three girls who are looking forward to library work as a profession, and who, besides taking these courses, take practice work in the library. At the present I have three such."

There are similar courses at the Ohio State university and at the Western Reserve university, and in addition to the lectures by the librarian in the last named institution, a course in bibliography is given by another member of the faculty.

From such information as this the committee have been able to gather that there have been employed in various libraries of the state, 26 students from the library schools of New York, Illinois, and the Pratt institute, as follows:

Librarians, 4; head catalogers, 4; head of another department, 1; catalogers, 10; assistants in other departments, 3; library organizers, 3; lecturer, 1. Of these 13 are now in library service in the state.

One thing worthy of notice in the foregoing is the much larger proportion of library school graduates employed in the catalog department than elsewhere; there being 13 in that department and only four in all other departments.

There have also been employed in the various libraries in the state 45 students of the Summer schools of New York, Wisconsin, Amherst, and Cleveland, as follows:

Librarians, 4; heads of department other than catalog, 6; catalogers, 6; other assistants, 29. Of these 39 are still in the library service in the state.

In thus discriminating between the cataloging and other departments, your committee does not mean to suggest that the work of cataloging necessarily occupies a higher plane than other work in the library, but merely to call attention to the fact that such work being more technical, the need of training is more apparent in that department. A knowledge and skill in using the methods, as well as familiarity with catalogs and other bibliographical helps, are no less important in the loan and reference departments than a knowledge of the technique of cataloging in that department. However, in the one case it is impossible even to make a beginning of cataloging without some instruction, and the errors of the cataloger remain on record in the library as evidence against itself, while it is possible in the other departments for a person with little preparation to blunder along and finally do the work after some poor fashion, at the expense of much time and loss to those using the library.

In summing up the foregoing, the committee finds much that is encouraging in the growing appreciation of the necessity of special training for library work in the efforts which have been made to meet this need here, and in the continually increasing number of trained people employed in various libraries in the state.

As there are many in isolated libraries to whom a library school course is an impossibility the need of instruction by correspondence may be readily seen. This subject has long attracted the attention of library educators. The New York State library school has announced courses of instruction by correspondence, but certain serious practical difficulties have prevented the plans from

being carried out. While some individual attempts have been made to give such instruction, nothing having the sanction and assistance of the regular school has yet been done. In the opinion of your committee it will require an equipment and a faculty equal to that of the regular schools to give such work value.

The committee would present for the consideration of the association the following:

1 That information as to special training for library work in the state be compiled from year to year and made part of the records of the association.

2 That information be compiled as to the amount of general education among those employed in libraries, with the view to emphasizing the value of a broad and thorough education as a groundwork for library training.

3 That the association decide as to the advisability of a course of lectures, outlining the scope of library training, to be given in connection with the next meeting of the association.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. BRETT,

E. C. DOREN,
Committee.

Mr Root: Perhaps a word in regard to our Library club would not be out of place, as it is a form of library training. Every Wednesday afternoon for an hour all of the assistants in this library, together with the librarian, meet for discussion of library topics. The program for this club is so arranged that three series of topics coming on successive weeks are under consideration. During the present term one afternoon is devoted to the study of the fifteenth century books, and the preparation of a catalog of the few which the library possesses; the week following, a chapter from Dana's Library primer is made the basis for discussion of some phase of library economy, while the third weekly meeting is devoted to reports from other libraries and to library periodicals, with opportunities for discussion of phases of our own work. We

have found this club very stimulating and profitable.

Mr Williams: a) The librarian meets small groups of first-year students in an informal way, and shows them through the library, pointing out the valuable collections, calling attention to old and rare books, and exhibiting any volumes which he thinks would be interesting. The rules of the library and the privileges of the students are stated, and the classification and arrangement of the books, and the use of the catalog, are explained.

b) Informal lectures on the reference books are given, the books themselves being placed before the students. The various cyclopedias, general and special, the dictionaries, yearbooks, almanacs, etc., are described, an attempt being made to tell what was the aim of the editor or publisher of each work, and how well he has succeeded in carrying out his design. Where similar works exist in the same field they are compared, and differences are noted. Considerable attention is given to Poole's index, the A. L. A. index to general literature, the supplements to these two, the Cumulative index, etc.

c) It is the purpose of the librarian in the coming year to offer an elective course in national or trade bibliography, to cover the more important general bibliographical publications of the United States, England, France, and Germany. This course is to be supplemented by lectures on the different kinds of catalogs, and by instruction and practice in the use of the same.

d) Courses in historical bibliography are now given in one of the departments of the university by one of the professors of history.

Mr Brett moved that a committee on resolutions be appointed, and this report with others given to them for revision. The following committee was appointed by the chair: Mr Porter, Miss Doren, and Mr Galbreath.

Mr Randall, chairman of the committee on public documents, in place of a report had a paper prepared by Mr Guittard on the subject of public docu-

ments, which, owing to its length, will be given later.

Mr Galbreath, state librarian, read the report from the committee on

Relation of library to schools

So far as your committee has been able to learn, there is practically nothing new to report. Little has been done within the past year to bring into closer relations and more helpful coöperation the public schools and the public libraries of the state. In some of the larger cities, notably Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati, and Toledo, by the establishment of branch libraries, the opening of children's rooms, and the purchase of liberal supplies of carefully selected juvenile literature, much has been done directly and indirectly to help the youth to the acquirement of a taste for healthful reading; but to the great body of school children throughout the state the free library is as yet an undiscovered country—an inviting field for the library enthusiast as well, if we credit the cogent words of a former president of this association. He said:

Where is the most inviting field for the public library? There is but one answer and you know it—all of you. It is the public schools. I would, if necessary, abandon every other method of reaching the public for the purpose of emphasizing and building up to the largest extent the work in the public school. There are two or three cities in the state that do this now upon different plans. All of them are doing good. But what shall we say of the large number of libraries of the state which do nothing for the public schools excepting to supply the school children with books as they come to the library along with the other patrons—the adult patrons? It does seem to me that there is your work; that the libraries of the state should wake up to the vital importance of this field of endeavor. It is open, it is ready, and I think that there is a growing tendency on the part of boards of education, and of those in charge of the schools, to encourage practical coöperation between these two educational agencies.

Unfortunately library legislation in Ohio is still in a somewhat chaotic condition. Since the repeal of the school library law of 1853 there has been practically no legislation designed to encourage and foster local library development throughout the state. Laws now in force are in large measure a patchwork of local acts, designed to meet the demands and conditions of various sections of the state. Those relating to rural townships are unfortunate. We may expend \$75 annually for books and apparatus in a district, but the law is so worded that it does not apply to subdistricts. A township board of education may therefore expend this sum for library purposes. If it embraces two subdistricts, it may spend \$37.50 in each. If it embraces 10 subdistricts, it may expend in each \$7.50 for libraries. The trustees of a township in which is situated a village having a population of not more than 1000, may, under certain conditions, establish a township library and levy for its support a tax not exceeding one-tenth of a mill on the taxable property of such township. These provisions, which embrace practically all legislation applicable to townships, are of such a character that they have produced very little in the shape of tangible results. The common council of every city not exceeding in population 30,000 inhabitants, and of every incorporated village, may establish a public library and levy a tax not to exceed one mill on the dollar for its support. There is no good reason why this privilege should not be extended to the township, and the power should be vested in the board of education.

The township board of education, when clothed with the authority now vested in the incorporated village, will be enabled to establish local libraries and to introduce the traveling library feature, which is peculiarly adapted to rural subdistrict schools. To illustrate: We will assume that the township includes 10 subdistricts. For \$500 we will purchase 10 excellent traveling libraries of about 30v. each, with neat and substantial case for transportation, one for

each subdistrict. The books of course should be carefully selected with reference to the age and capacities of prospective readers, and there should be few, if any, duplicates. At the opening of the schools a traveling library should be placed in each schoolroom ready for use. At the end of two or three months there should be an exchange of libraries. The books in the different districts should be called in on a certain day, and a man employed to do the work should make the exchanges throughout the township. This could be very easily arranged. A traveling library may be taken from one of the schools to the adjoining district, the library there taken up, and in a similar way carried to the next school. This can be done very promptly and at trifling expense, as the box of books is so light that it may be conveyed in a buggy or sleigh from district to district. In this way the pupils and patrons of each district will, in time, have access to 300v. in all of the libraries. The cases should be so large that each year may be added a new volume or two of current interest when issued from the press. The libraries could thus be kept fresh and up to date.

The general management should be in the hands of a thoroughly competent and responsible person, and reports should be required at regular intervals. This is all important, for the success of the system depends almost wholly upon efficient administration. Where there is a township superintendent he should have the management of the traveling libraries, and where there is a central high school it should be the depository for these libraries when the schools are not in session. It should also have a permanent library accessible to the pupils of the school, and, for purposes of reference, to the people of the entire township.

Within the past year little has been done to strengthen the bond of union between this organization and the Ohio State teachers' association. As a member of both I have the opportunity to know something of their attitude to-

ward the library problem, and I am sure that the desire for closer relations and more effective coöperation is mutual. Through the united efforts of these two representative bodies, I am persuaded favorable legislation could be secured for effective library extension. In conclusion I therefore suggest that this association authorize the appointment of a committee, to confer with the committee on legislation appointed by the State teachers' association, for the purpose of outlining and recommending a library system for the rural schools of Ohio. This association has already devoted much time and attention to library extension, and as a tangible result has collected some very suggestive statistics. It would now seem to be in order to reach forth to the opportunity that these statistics reveal.

C. B. GALBREATH, Chairman.

Miss Wright, chairman of the committee on necrology, reported the death of two members, Dr Whelpley of Cincinnati and Miss Day of Mt Vernon. Mr Root read the following resolution on the death of these members, and it was moved and seconded that the resolutions be spread on the minutes, and copies made by the secretary be mailed to the families of both.

RESOLUTION.

The Ohio Library association would place on record its deep sense of personal loss in the death of its esteemed member, Mr A. W. Whelpley of Cincinnati. Mr Whelpley's long period of service in one of the most important libraries of the state, his warm-hearted hospitality at our meeting in Cincinnati, and his lovable and winsome personality, had greatly endeared him to every member of the association, and it is with deepest regret that we chronicle his departure from us.

We would extend to Mrs Whelpley our tenderest expressions of sympathy in this great affliction.

In the death of Ermina J. Day of Mt Vernon the association has lost one of its most faithful members, and the library profession one who in perfect self-forgetfulness, without seeking notice of man, lovingly and helpfully served her day and generation.

In grateful memory of the faithful services of these two associates, the Ohio Library association places this minute on its records, and instructs the secretary to transmit copies of the same to Mrs Whelpley, and to the trustees of the Mt Vernon library.

Pauline Gray, librarian in the Institute for the blind, read the report of the special committee on reading for the blind. Mr Orr spoke of Miss Eastman's work in this direction, and that the credit of this department of the work of the association was due in a large measure to her interest. Mr Hodges, librarian of the Cincinnati Public library, spoke of the effort being made in their library for books for the blind. W. T. Porter of Cincinnati offered some remarks in the same line.

Reading for the blind

There are three distinct systems of raised print used in the United States, namely, the American Braille, Wait's New York Point, and the Boston Line. Dr Moon's system, known as the Moon Print, is now obsolete. In the Ohio Institute and throughout the state the Boston Line and the New York Point, commonly distinguished as Line and Point, are used. The Line print is identical with our own seeing print, save that it is embossed. The Point is a system of raised dots, the position and number of dots determining their significance something after the manner of the dots and dashes in telegraphy. All pupils at the institution are taught both prints. The Line can be read longer at a time without tiring the sensitive fingers and making the reader nervous, which the Point has a tendency to do. The Point has one great advantage, that it can be written, and a simple apparatus called a slate and stylus are used.

The books are uniformly 14 inches long, 13 wide, and average about 4 or 5 inches in thickness; or, using a common illustration, are about the size of an ordinary atlas having the thickness of an unabridged dictionary. It requires 11v. of these dimensions to contain one copy of the Bible in the Point print, and the Line takes up about the same space. They are printed on one side of the paper only, and while large and unwieldy, are not heavy, as the volumes are bound after the manner of an ordinary scrapbook, having extra blocks in

the binding to hold the leaves apart and prevent crushing the embossing. The average cost of the books is \$2.50 per volume, Bibles being an exception, costing \$7 per volume.

There has been an unusual interest manifested in the past months toward encouraging blind readers throughout the state, and some earnest and practical work has already been done toward that end, especially in Cincinnati and Cleveland. It certainly is a move in a good direction. According to the census of 1890 there were 3373 blind people in the state, and the new census promises a much larger showing. It has been planned, if nothing more, to have departments for the blind in several of our largest libraries, and traveling libraries for circulation throughout the state. Whether the size of the volumes and their expense will prove insurmountable difficulties remains to be seen.

At the State institution the expense of the library is kept up by national appropriation divided pro rata among the schools throughout the United States, the Ohio school receiving about \$800 per annum. As the embossed maps and writing appliances for the school are purchased from the same fund, the amount is not so large as it would seem.

Since the subject has come up, I have found that there is an idea prevalent that nothing has been or is being done for blind readers not in the state school; that when their term of instruction is completed they are then cut off from all advantages of the kind. I would like to correct that; it is not true. Each graduate pupil upon leaving the Institution is allowed to select a book, in one or more volumes as the work may happen to contain, and this is given him for his own. Besides this, the library is a circulating one, and books are loaned to any blind person in the state upon application. From one to six books may be taken at a time. These may be kept for three months and then may be either exchanged for others or renewed for another three months. A catalog of the books is sent for the asking. The only drawback to this method

is that the borrower must pay transportation charges, as there is no fund for the purpose. It is not much, three books may be expressed almost anywhere in the state for 35 cents one way; but that is often an item, especially to the many indigent blind having their homes in infirmaries and various asylums. The time necessary for transportation and wear on the books from the same cause must also be considered.

Therefore, the bringing of reading matter to the blind readers is a thought most worthy of library workers. There is no class of people to whom reading means so much.

The Pavilion for the blind in Washington has been watched with great interest and growing pride by the whole nation, and the work it is doing is an inspiration.

Several large cities in the United States have accomplished what is being agitated for Ohio, and I cannot make too strong a plea that encouragement and practical help be given those working toward this end.

The officers and teachers of the Ohio Institution for the blind are much interested, and send greetings and offers of any help in their power toward the furtherance of this work by the Ohio Library association.

PAULINE G. GRAY, Librarian.
Institute for the blind,
Columbus, Ohio.

Miss Boardman, secretary of the library extension committee, in the absence of Miss Eastman read the report of that committee.

Report of library extension committee

At the close of last year's work your committee was engaged in collecting statistics of libraries throughout the state, while the present year has been devoted largely to the gathering of information concerning the towns without libraries. The work as planned by the chairman, Miss Eastman, in brief is as follows:

A circular letter with statistical blanks was again sent to all libraries, with the request that they be filled out and sup-

plemented by a short history of the library, and accompanied with pictures of the building, interior views, and floor plans, to be used in the report on libraries in Ohio, contemplated by the State library commission. A letter was sent to each member of the legislature asking his coöperation in the passage of a bill authorizing the publication of such a report. Another circular was prepared and sent to the newspapers, briefly stating what had already been accomplished, and what we still hope to achieve, with a request that it be given space or editorially commented upon. This met with a generous response from the press of the state, many papers publishing the circular in full and others commenting upon it in favorable terms, urging the legislature to act upon the matter.

The correspondents on the secretary's list were also appealed to in behalf of the measure, with the result that the combined efforts of librarians, press, and correspondents, added to personal influence, secured the enactment of a resolution providing for the printing of the report, which we hope will be issued the first of next year.

In response to a call of the chairman, a joint meeting of your committee and the executive board was held in Columbus March 13. Those of the committee present besides the president and secretary were Miss Mercer and Miss Lowe, with Mrs Mack and Miss Jones, two of the advisory members. After the secretary's report on the progress of the work as outlined, it was agreed that another form of circular, for the purpose of collecting information about towns without libraries, should be sent the correspondents, together with revised copy of The new library, and a postal card with blanks for the name of the place, the population, and replies to the questions: Is there a public library? Is there any effort being made to establish one? this card to be returned to the secretary of the committee.

The secretary was instructed to have 500 copies of each printed and sent out at the earliest possible date, and to

draw on the treasurer of the association for any expense connected with the work not exceeding \$12.

Miss Eastman then spoke on the subject of reading matter for the blind. She had visited the State institution for the education of the blind, and found there a library in the raised type of nearly 4000v. The price of printing books in the raised type is very high, an ordinary volume costs \$200, so there are but few printed; but by a system of coöperation and exchange with other states she thought the publications each year might be increased, thus securing for this unfortunate class of people a greater variety of subjects. In view of the fact that so little is known as to the number of blind in the state, and as to what is being done for them after leaving the institution, it was deemed wise to appoint a special committee on reading for the blind, to collect statistics and report at the meeting of the association in October. The executive board named Miss Gray, Miss Eastman, and Miss Boardman as the committee.

Of the 500 cards sent out about half have been returned, thus affording statistics of over 200 towns and villages varying in size from 20,000 to less than 100 inhabitants. Many of the replies manifest a deplorable indifference, while a few report that earnest efforts are being made for the establishment of a library; still others express the wish to own a library, but fear an increase in taxation. And so it goes, but taken altogether the outlook after the year's work is not discouraging, for a number of libraries have been organized and are running successfully. The public school library at Alliance has been opened to the public under the law of 1898. The Shakespeare subscription library at Celina has been established through the joint efforts of the two women's clubs of that place. The Brumbach library at VanWert is being organized. The young men's mercantile library at Lebanon will soon be turned over to the town, and within the past month Avondale, a small town in Coshocton county, has opened a library.

During the year the libraries at Delaware and Pomeroy have secured the money from the tax levy and are now in successful operation. Marietta, Lorain, Mt Gilead, Jackson, Miamisburg, New Philadelphia, Tippecanoe City, and Urichsville are all struggling with the library problem, and there should be some one to go to their assistance.

Since making our report last year the generous hand of Mr Carnegie has again been extended to Ohio, and Sandusky and Steubenville have each been given \$50,000 for a library, and it is rumored at Conneaut that as soon as certain conditions are complied with he will build and equip a library there. While thanking Mr Carnegie for his liberality, your committee hopes that his good work so well begun in Ohio may continue, until many towns reap the benefit of his wealth.

After a careful study of the library field, your committee would recommend that the united efforts of the Ohio Library association and the State library commission be directed to securing an amendment to the library law of 1898, extending the privilege of that law to all towns in the state; and that they also work for the passage of a law giving state aid to establish libraries similar to those of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, or New York, the only states having such a law. In Massachusetts a sum not exceeding \$100 is granted upon application of the board of trustees of any town having no free library. New Hampshire gives the same amount, but provides that every town accepting must annually appropriate a specified sum for the maintenance of the library. The New York law requires that the locality receiving aid shall raise an equal amount for the same purpose.

Your committee believes that a law based upon any one of these, or what would perhaps be better, a law giving a sum of money graded according to the number of inhabitants, and providing that the amount given should be duplicated by the town applying for aid, would result in the establishment of libraries in almost every town in the state,

and we hope when the executive board discusses this matter they will present a series of resolutions to be acted upon by the association.

Amendment to the constitution

The following amendment to the constitution, offered by Mr Brett at the Toledo meeting, was read and passed by a unanimous vote.

Moved that section 5 of the constitution be amended to read: The officers of the association, together with the retiring president ex officio, shall constitute the executive board.

Mr Brett spoke of the necessity of having wise legislation relative to the establishing of new libraries, saying that it is a matter which should be carefully considered in these days of experiments. Mr Root of Oberlin said the association should exercise its influence in what is known to be the right direction.

Mr Orr spoke of the need of a new building for the state library, that books at Columbus may be more available both to the Columbus people and the people of the state. Mr Root moved that a committee be appointed to report at the next meeting of the association, on the matter of a new state library building, the committee to consist of Mr Randall, Olive Jones, and Mr Galbreath.

Meeting adjourned.

Wednesday evening session

The program as printed was followed, with the exception that the paper to be given by S. L. Wicoff was omitted and in its place Judge Tod B. Galloway, probate judge of Franklin county, gave an interesting talk on the Traveling libraries of Franklin county, which are sent out from the office of the probate judge to the district schools of the county.

A company in which Zanesville was not largely represented made up the audience. A very cordial address of welcome was given by Dr E. C. Brush, president of board of trustees of Zanesville Athenæum, and a response was given by President Orr.

The address of Dr Thompson, of the State university, on Librarianship as a profession, was pronounced by all who heard it as one of the finest expositions of the subject that has been given by anyone. He followed his theme along the lines of the questions, What is librarianship? Is it a profession? Is it a desirable calling to enter? What ought to be the attitude of the public to such work?

Dr Thompson proved the affirmative of these questions, and an attitude of appreciation on the part of the public, adding that intelligent service must precede intelligent appreciation.

Dr Thompson's paper will be given in full in another number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

In the absence of Hon. J. F. McGrew, president of the Ohio State library commission, C. B. Galbreath spoke on

The state library for the people of the state

From the name state library, one might naturally conclude that the institution had always been "for the people of the state," a presumption that is not borne out by its history.

The early state libraries were for state officials and members of the legislature. Government publications were accumulating in the various departments at the different state capitols. It was found feasible to collect these into one room, where they could be systematically arranged and preserved for reference. The librarian was a mere custodian in this early formative period of the state library, when there was little to attract to it the attention of the public. The collection of state and general government publications, thus early recognized as the special work of the state library, must continue to be regarded as one of its essential functions.

A little later the field broadened, and the state library was recognized not only as a depository of state and national government publications, but as the proper place for collections of reference books pertaining to the state and general government. This was a period of growth along rational lines, but in

many states increased appropriations for salaries and brief tenure of office made the position of librarian more attractive to the army of place seekers, and led to the reactionary period in which the state library figured as the sinecure of the politicians.

Passing over this period we come to the stage in the evolution of the state library which brings it within the limits of the subject assigned—The state library for the people of the state. They are taxed for its support. It is theirs; and we congratulate ourselves that we are approaching the good time coming, when it shall render something of service and hold out something of opportunity to the humblest citizen of the state. Its traditional purpose is not to be abandoned. It is still to be preëminently a reference library on affairs of state, but in addition it is to be an information bureau for those beyond its immediate vicinity, and a center of the library activities of the state. Under the old régime it was the privilege of all citizens to consult books on its shelves. In these times of rapid transit, improved mail facilities, the telegraph and the telephone, what objection can there be to the utilization of these agencies for the dissemination of information among the people. Citizens in distant parts of the state wish a bibliography of recent magazine articles on women's clubs, trusts, imperialism; a teacher desires to know the significance of the red triangle and the single star in the Cuban flag; and a farmer asks for the legal weight of a bushel of onions. If this information were requested in person at the state library it would be promptly furnished. What valid objection can be made to the use of the mails in sending it to these taxpayers at their expense? And why not send to a farmer boy in the western part of the state a copy of The wonders of modern mechanism, when the rules and regulations authorize the man who is picking up sticks in the yard of the state capitol to make requisition on the state library for The sorrows of Satan? And why should other ministers be taxed to furnish

theological literature for the resident ministers of the capital city? Away with unjust discriminations, so abhorrent to the genuine library spirit! Of course, it is understood that there are books that should never go outside of the library; that should be chained, as it were, to the shelf; but books that go to a class of patrons in one community should, on the same conditions, go to all communities.

I said a moment ago that the state library should be the center of the library interests of the state. Not that it should interfere with or dominate library administration elsewhere, but that it should be ever ready to extend a helping hand, to issue bulletins and bibliographies, to compile coöperative catalogs on special subjects, preferably those relating to the state, to aid in the establishment of new libraries, to send forth the traveling library on its mission, in short, to inaugurate and direct the propaganda of library extension within the borders of the state.

In many states 50 years ago systems of libraries were established, and for a time administered, through the office of the commissioner of common schools. Excellent in their day, they failed in a measure, first, because of frequent changes in the office of commissioner, which prevented the uniform and continued service so essential to successful library work; and, second, because of a failure to provide efficient administration in the townships to which the libraries were sent. In our own state, in the years 1853-60, at an expense of \$300,000, 400,000 v. were put in the hands of the people. At the end of the period there were 13,500 free public libraries in Ohio, one in each school; today there are about 60. I speak of these school libraries as free, and I do so advisedly. They were free not only for the pupils, but to all the citizens of the districts to which they were sent.

In our state a great field of opportunity opens up to this association. In many states every rural school has its library. In the 11,174 rural schools of Ohio there are today, perhaps, outside

of Franklin county, less than 100 free libraries. In the towns and smaller villages the public library is practically unknown. The traveling library has been introduced. From the state library 1456 of these have already been sent out. The State teachers' association, the State grange, and the Federation of woman's clubs have manifested a friendly interest in the movement. If I had been born an exhorter instead of a Quaker I should make an eloquent and impassioned plea for the coöperation and efficient help that this association alone can give. In town and village, and on the lonely farm in the midst of an amphitheater of hills, boys and girls are waiting for the inspiring message that you can send through the medium of books. You have but to speak earnestly, persistently, with unanimity, and your wishes will be heard and heeded by the powers that be; the doors of the free library will swing open for all, and your state library will become more and more a library for the people of the state.

Tiberius Gracchus, the champion of the common people of Rome, so runs the historic record, built on the Aventine hill the first temple dedicated to liberty, and in it placed the library of the republic. In the 45 capitolis of the commonwealths of the new republic the state library should stand, not as a memorial, not as a monument, not as a mausoleum, but as a beacon of light to the educational forces of the state. It should be as broad in its scope as the field of useful human knowledge, as generous in purpose as our system of popular education, and, like the library of that elder day, it should be a temple of liberty.

The next exercise was an address by W. H. Brett, of Cleveland, on Some library needs.

Mr Brett began his remarks by a complimentary allusion to the address of Dr Thompson, which he regarded as one of the clearest statements and fairest estimates of the work of the librarian which he had ever heard from one not directly engaged in that work. He

thought it was possibly less remarkable as coming from the president of a university in which the work of the library had received recognition as an important part of the educational equipment, and something which was not merely valuable, but absolutely essential to every branch of the instruction.

Mr Brett then continued his address, of which the following is a brief synopsis:

Some library needs

I have no intention, as might appear from the title which is coupled with my name on the program, of giving a category of the needs of the modern library, I would direct attention briefly to one thing needful—one thing which would, if it were supplied, bring with it all the rest; that is, the need of appreciation. Not appreciation in the sense of commendation or praise, for criticism is more wholesome for the library than compliment; but rather appreciation in the sense of understanding the real purpose of the library, and of its value. Nor would I complain that the library is not receiving a measure of appreciation. Some of the intelligent and influential people, the leaders of our communities do appreciate the library, and it is their support and help which renders the library work of the present possible; but everywhere there are many of the best people who have no interest in the library, have not informed themselves as to its work nor come to realize its value as one of the modern educational forces, but are either indifferent or have an entire misconception of the work it is doing. We recognize the widespread misconception that the public library is merely occupied in issuing light reading, and the failure to comprehend the extent of its educational work. If all the best people in the community could realize the practical value of the library to those engaged in all the various industries of life, and the help it might give in the perfection of the manufacturing arts, adding artistic beauty and value to them; if they could realize what the li-

brary might do in educating our young men for their duties as citizens, and beyond these more practical things, what it offers in the realm of science, art, and literature, history, biography, and travel, they would certainly have a juster conception of its value. They would be more ready to tax themselves to build libraries than to build almshouses, for there certainly is a clear relation between intelligence and thrift. The state of Massachusetts has more libraries than any other state in the Union, and has also more money in the savings banks per capita than any other state. They would be more ready to tax themselves for libraries and collections of books than for insane asylums. We have just heard from our state librarian of the traveling libraries which are sent into rural districts. It is quite likely that if there had been more traveling libraries and more books throughout the farming townships of Ohio, there would be fewer farmers' wives in the insane asylum. They would be more ready to tax themselves for libraries than for jails and penitentiaries; for I think there can be no question but that if the flash literature of the newsstands was replaced by wholesome books, there would be less room needed at our penal institutions.

I am not arguing that the library is a panacea for all the ills under which our social system is suffering, but am confident that it is one of the forces which makes for social betterment. If the public libraries could have the appreciation and support of all the best people in the community, as they now have of the comparatively few, they might do fully the great work which is open to them, and I am confident that this is coming gradually but certainly.

If it is best to spend \$20 or more annually for each pupil in our common schools, mainly for the purpose of teaching the boy or girl to read, then it certainly is well to spend a dollar or so annually to give that same boy or girl, after school is past, an opportunity to carry on the education which was begun in the school—an opportunity to con-

tinue in the path of wisdom in which we have set their feet.

The main work of the Ohio Library association is to bring about that era of appreciation and enlargement in our own state. We can say with truth, and we may say it with pride, that a common school education is within reach of every boy or girl in our state. Our state librarian has told us that we have 50 or 60 libraries in the state where we should have 300 to 400. The report of our committee on extension has shown us what the wonderful and encouraging increase has been within the last few years. Let us not cease from our efforts as an association until the libraries meet the demands of our readers just as fully as the schools meet the needs of our children.

Then followed

The Problems of a large library

N. D. C. Hodges, librarian of Cincinnati public library

It is a question in what way I can present the problems of a great library that they shall prove interesting to the general public. It is conceivable that a system of administration for small libraries might be devised that should be uniformly applicable throughout the length and breadth of the land. A small library, in my opinion, has a limited purpose. It can minister to the wants of the general reader only. It can supply the popular fiction and magazines. It can have a few of the books on the arts, history, and social science; but this collection will be only a fraction of the literature that is needed to supply the calls of the specialists whatever the branch of learning or industry in which they may be engaged. The small library may have two or three of the principal encyclopedias in English. In other words, the small library cannot undertake to do more than supply the books most talked about, and to have ready dictionaries and encyclopedias for answering many everyday questions. I appreciate that I am heretical when I give my adherence to the party that says that the small library

should go so far and no farther, and that it should place a limit on the books it attempts to collect.

The large library must do all that the small library should attempt, and it must endeavor to have upon its shelves all the literature of the world. The student, the person devoting considerable time to a thorough compilation of the world's knowledge in any field, if ever so limited, should have assurance that in the large library he shall find the vast mass of record literature in which is filed away the original accounts of the investigations of scientific men and women, using the word scientific in the broadest sense.

In what does this record literature consist? What does it look like? It looks like books, very much like ordinary, everyday books, though sometimes of an unfortunate size. These books are published in series—monthly, quarterly, annually—by publishing houses, societies, state, county, and city governments. The bulk of this literature is so great that for 40 years or more there has been in operation, through the Smithsonian institution in Washington, a system by which the record publications of America may be exchanged by the libraries of America with their correspondents in Europe at a minimum expense. The Smithsonian institution publishes a list of the foreign bodies that publish, and have entered into their system. This list shows that there are more than 9000 European record serials wanted by the students of America. It is not a single volume that is needed, but complete sets of these record publications. When it is considered that some of these sets have been issued continuously for more than 250 years, it may seem that the task of collecting such material would be hopeless. It is a great task for any large library. In any large city, or even state, it may well be that the task should not be undertaken by any one large library. Let no small library make any attempt; the little of such record literature it could collect would be so fragmentary that it would be tantalizing, and no real

help to the student who wants full sets, and many of them.

At one of the sessions of this meeting there is to be a discussion on the feasibility of issuing a coöperative catalog of this record literature, so far as it is to be found within the limits of the state of Ohio. The purpose of this proposed catalog is to let students know where they can find in Ohio the different sets of publications, and, further, to aid librarians in the choice of other sets which they may recommend for purchase. As it is now, students frequently have to send to Harvard library, Cambridge, Mass., for books which may not be in Ohio, but which certainly should be.

This record literature is in every language. There is not a volume of it that the casual reader would pick up and desire to carry away to console himself with on a rainy evening. It is the record of how the world has made progress in its knowledge of plants, of metals, and of steam engines. It is upon this record, starting with the knowledge of what this record contains, that further progress may be hoped for. A great library can undertake the collection of a workable amount of such record literature, and it is one of its peculiar duties to its public that it shall do its share, and that it shall coöperate with the other large libraries near by, that there shall be the least loss in the duplication of books. At Cincinnati much has been done along these lines, and appreciating, as I have reason to, the earnest purpose of the trustees to make the public library of Cincinnati yet more of a factor in the library world than it has been in the past, I feel confident that the other great libraries of the state will find the public library of Cincinnati ready to take its full share in caring for the students of Ohio.

Supposing this record literature to be collected, how is it to be made available to the student reader? There are many ways in which this is done. You all know of the newspapers devoted to engineering, to history, and the pure sciences. There are other periodicals

which are made up solely of short abstracts of the articles in all the periodicals in one field. Most of these journals devoted purely to telling what is to be found in other journals are published in Germany; in fact, the common name for them, *Jahresberichte*, has no recognized English equivalent. For 75 years past the German patent office has issued each year a volume which is a general index to the technical journals of the world.

At every library there is a constant call for books on the industrial arts. The books using the term in the limited sense of a treatise, in which somebody has brought together all that may be known of electroplating, automobiles, or gardening, are very nice in their way; and it is certainly a comfort to have in so compact a form the world's stock of knowledge on electroplating, automobiles, or gardening, as it existed at the time the book was written. But how does that compare with the world's knowledge today—today, when we are working at a new process of electroplating? The book is at least two years out of date. Late items are sometimes crowded in, but two years is estimated as about the interval between the completion of an author's work on some technical subject and the appearance of the book on the market. It is to the technical journals that the investigator must turn for the news of the week, or month. And, for the many industries, recourse must be had to the many technical journals. The keys to these are the annual indexes and volumes of abstracts, and the index of the German patent office. There are other aids for getting the meat out of the accumulations of record literature, but reference to them here may be omitted.

I have spoken of the student. I have not had in mind the student of the school or college at all. I have meant the term to cover the more earnest student of the workshop and laboratory. By student I would designate any person who goes to a library with a well-defined purpose to find out what the stock of the world's knowledge may be

in the special line in which he is working. We all read books to be entertained, to be instructed; to get a clearer insight into human character through fiction, or a general view of the world's work by reading history, travels, and popular books in science. But in all that we are not students. Story would not support my argument.

We have these meetings, as I conceive it, for two purposes: we come to tell of what in each of our libraries has been accomplished to make the books more useful to their readers, and we come to discuss plans for further improvements. Perhaps I have been misled into hinting first at one of our plans for the future. Very likely I ought first to have spoken of what has been done in the past two years at the public library of Cincinnati. I have been at the library only a few months, and I might describe my efforts there in that time as having been mainly devoted to an attempt to keep up with the band. I have gone stumbling ahead as best I might, having not only to keep one eye to the front to see which way the band was going, but the other to the rear to see that my force kept on at quick-step. The story has been told that, at the laying of the corner-stone of Bunker Hill monument, the captain of a militia company marching onto Boston Common with a band at its head, in his keenness to keep up with the band failed to notice whether his soldiers followed, and found himself the embarrassed object of amusement to the crowd—behind his band, but without a man at his heels. I assure you that I shall keep up with the band if I can, and that it is expected that all in the company will march quick-step with me. There will be no use in calling to the band to hold up. Everybody connected with the public library of Cincinnati, from the band of seven pieces at the head to the office boy, is working to have the books within the walls that should be there, to make them available to the readers with the least trouble and delay, to make the buildings attractive and comfortable, and to make every reader feel

that he is welcome. There are now about 225,000v. in the library. These are mostly in the central building on Vine street. There are 37 stations scattered through the county, for the service is for the whole county—28 miles along the river and 15 miles back. There is, as I write, one branch; as I read there may be more. There certainly will be soon. At these stations people call and leave their orders for books, which are forwarded to the central library, where the books wanted are packed in boxes and shipped back to the station by return express. In the central library, and in the one branch, there are books for circulation on shelves open to the public, that readers may make their choice from an examination of the books, and not through the medium of a catalog. There are others on the open shelves for reference or consultation. There is a room for the children where they may roam about as they list, mousing among the books to their heart's content, and free to read in the room or take the books to their homes. Here are bulletin boards by which the children's attention is called to books on subjects in which they may be interested, but which they might neglect for the story-book; and there are bulletin boards for similar use near the entrance to the main reading-room for adults. Pictures and maps of places to which public attention is called by passing events, are on exhibition constantly. The library is possessed of some rare old books and some of these have been placed where the public can see them. In aid of students, reading-lists of books and magazine articles have been prepared, more especially to aid the members of the women's clubs of the county in the preparation of their papers. An alcove has been set aside for the use of these women, and an attendant is there ready to give personal guidance to the faltering novice in literary work.

If it is queried to what standard we are striving, I would answer, none. We are striving each month, and each day, to make the library serve its purpose

better than it did the month, the day before. I suspect that each month will reveal to us more that we can do, and that the problems of the library and its readers will never be completely solved.

The last address of the evening was by Miss Ahern, editor of *PUBLIC LIBRARIES*, who spoke of the library field as a sphere of usefulness for those who were prepared with mental attainment and spiritual uplift to help make life happier and better for all with whom they come in contact. At the close the meeting adjourned.

Thursday morning

A most delightful trip was taken by the members of the association and some Zanesville friends down the Muskingum river. This social feature of the meeting was enjoyed by all present, and added much to the pleasure of the day. Much surprise and great delight was expressed over the beautiful scenery of the region, and the many interesting stories connected with the pioneer history of this part of the state were much enjoyed by the party, as they were told and their scenes pointed out by Col. Goddard of Zanesville.

Thursday afternoon

The next regular session of the meeting was taken up Thursday afternoon in Memorial hall.

Mr Orr called for the report of the committee on nomination.

The report was as follows: President, A. S. Root, Oberlin college library; 1st vice-president, Electra C. Doran, of Dayton public library; 2d vice-president, C. B. Galbreath, state librarian, Columbus; 3d vice-president, W. T. Porter, trustee Cincinnati public library; secretary, Olive Jones, librarian of State university library; treasurer, Kitty W. Sherwood, Cincinnati public library.

Dr White moved that the secretary cast a ballot for the candidates as nominated. Carried.

The report from the committee on time and place of next meeting was then given. Four invitations had been received—from Columbus, Sandusky, Elyria, and London. The committee

reported that they presented the names of Sandusky and Columbus to the association. A rising vote was called for and resulted in Sandusky receiving 25 votes and Columbus 13 votes; the time of the meeting to be referred to the executive committee with power.

The paper by S. L. Wicoff, which was omitted from the Wednesday evening program, was given at this time. This paper called forth discussion from many of the members present.

Needs of new library legislation in library extension in Ohio

S. L. Wicoff, trustee, Sidney public library

Whatever we have today in any line of human activity is the product of a slow evolution. In human affairs existing conditions at any time may be said to but mark a stage in development. The modern library movement is no exception to this rule.

Two things are therefore pertinent to consider on this occasion: 1) What stage have we already reached in Ohio in library extension, and, 2) What shall be the course of our future development? It has been said by Mr Fletcher in his little book, entitled *Public libraries in America* (p. 20), that five distinct stages in library legislation may be noted: 1) The incorporation of private societies, or library associations; 2) the establishment of district school libraries; 3) provision for township libraries; 4) permissive legislation for town and city libraries; and 5), (a stage not yet reached) compulsory town and city libraries.

It is especially interesting to note that the first four methods of establishing libraries thus named by Mr Fletcher, and called stages in legislative development, are all present in the Ohio library legislation of today, and are illustrated by existing libraries with which we who are here are severally connected. That is to say, we have existing statutes authorizing and providing for, 1) private library associations (R. S. sec. 3767-8); 2) township libraries (R. S. sec. 1476-8); 3) school district libraries (R. S. sec. 3995 and 3999); 4) village

and city libraries (R. S. sec. 1692). All of these are permissive only; none are required. That is one great defect. Another is that our various libraries, of whatever class, are but isolated and disconnected units of library activity each working along in its own way, providing and spending its own money, buying its own books, and making its own experiments, without any coöperation with other libraries, and frequently without much regard to either the successes or failures of others.

The enormous waste of both energy and money incident to library management under such conditions would certainly be appalling to the average business man if he ever stopped to think of it.

Now, the development of library legislation should be in the direction of curing these defects; and certainly this association should exert itself to that end. How then may we best proceed toward the accomplishment of such a purpose? We need not expect by any new legislation to work a violent revolution, or even a rapid transformation in library extension. Patience and perseverance must ever be the watchwords of him who works for the advancement of any cause in the interest of society. But our work should be intelligently planned; a good plan secures better results than a poor one. We should organize our efforts; in organization there is strength. Above all, we should have a high ideal toward which we shall strive. We may not attain our ideal, perhaps will not; but if we have a worthy ideal and strive to attain it—work systematically, intelligently, energetically, and concertedly toward it—we will accomplish a great deal more than we possibly could by the same labor expended in the ordinary desultory fashion.

I think it will be conceded by all that our ideal of a perfect library system for Ohio could not fall short of being one in which every public library in the state would find an appropriate place, so as to form a useful part of the symmetrical and complete system. It must

be one also in which the greatest possible efficiency of service shall be secured with the least possible expenditure of energy and money. As I have already said, we cannot expect that any system which may at this time be provided for in legislation shall suddenly, or even rapidly, secure these results. But the system thus provided should blaze the way; it should give direction to our labors; it should furnish inspiration to our endeavors; and, above all, it should garner the results which we do accomplish.

And now, coming to be a little more specific, I wish to name a few of what I think should be the chief features of such a library system as we should work for and strive to get expressed in a statute at the next session of our legislature:

- 1 The state library should form a part of the system, standing at the head of it.

We might thus hope to secure concerted and systematic action. It is certainly a great mistake to be duplicating library agencies in the same field.

- 2 When in complete operation there should be in each county a library organization, which would stand at the head of the county system.

- 3 There should be established throughout the county branch libraries and sub-stations, as occasion offered, and opportunities for extending the work increased.

The county library in this way would become the intermediate agency through which the state library might reach the people of remote districts most effectively, and at the least cost of trouble and expense, with its traveling libraries of books and pictures.

- 4 While there should be general uniformity in the system, especially in so far as the action of the state library is concerned, there should also be such elasticity as would enable each county organization to be formed out of the local library elements already there existing; that is to say, subject to certain general requirements, there should be given the right of local self-government to the various county organizations.

This need of county elasticity arises largely from the fact that in several counties there are now existing two or more public libraries of independent origin, differently organized, and sometimes actuated by rivalry in their work. For these reasons it might be necessary to provide in some cases for two organizations within a single county, thus permitting the rival libraries located in different towns or cities to divide the territory between them. On the other hand, where two or more libraries exist in the same city, provision should be made allowing them to come together under one management, dividing the work between them so as to avoid the duplication of agencies.

5 The law, while general in its nature, should not be applicable to any county until its provisions are invoked by the people of the county, and an agreement and organization effected in conformity thereto.

For the purpose of considering this feature the counties of Ohio are divisible into four classes, viz.:

1 Where the county seat, or principal city of the county, has already within it two or more public libraries. In such case it is almost imperative that, before any organization can be effected, there shall be an agreement arrived at between the several libraries as to their future position in, and relation to, the organization, differentiating the work, possibly, instead of dividing the territory.

2 The second class of counties would embrace those having two libraries located in different cities; in which case, as I have already said, probably the most feasible plan would be to divide the territory of the county between them, each becoming the head of a separate organization extending over a definite district.

3 The third class would embrace those counties having a single public library, under the control of either a duly incorporated library association, or duly constituted public authority, such as the city council, or board of education. In either of these cases the consent and agreement of the controll-

ing body should be secured, if possible, as a condition precedent to the organization.

4 The fourth class would include all those counties in which no public library now exists, or, existing, such library would decline to go into the county organization. In these cases it would remain for the people themselves to take the initiative in organizing the county system.

There is much room for variety of opinion as to how the people of a county should be authorized to express their wish for a county library system, whether by petition or ballot; and also as to what proportion of the people should be required to assent to the proposition before the organization might be effected. Without desiring to stand committed to any specific course in the matter, I wish to say that there are some serious objections to submitting a question of this kind to an election. The expense incident to holding a special election makes it almost imperative to submit such a matter at a general fall election, if at all, when, owing to the usual intense interest in party questions, a subject of this kind does not receive the serious consideration it deserves, and hence is liable to be defeated through general apathy and neglect, especially if, as is usually the case, it requires a majority of the whole vote cast.

I can see no very weighty objection to permitting the people of the various townships to ask for the institution and organization of a county library system by petition. And why should not women be as much entitled to vote on such a question as men? For that course we already have the precedent of the school elections. Neither does there seem to be any special objection to organizing a county library system covering such townships of the county as may express themselves in favor of it, leaving the remaining townships to come in and receive its benefits when they shall get ready for it, and make their request in the appointed way.

A more difficult question is, what per-

centage of the people of a township shall be required to sign the petition for the library before it shall be granted? We have become so accustomed to recognizing the general right of the majority to rule, that, on first thought, it might seem proper to apply that test in the case of libraries. However, I think that the institution of a library becomes a proper subject for an exception to the general majority rule. In a country like ours, where education is of the very first importance, the right of the people to possess educational advantages should in no case be dependent upon a mere count of noses. The demands of those who feel the need, and desire the increased educational advantages, are entitled to more weight than should be accorded to the indifference and sordidness of the ignorant. For this position we already have in Ohio two very significant and important precedents in our school law. I refer to the establishment of evening schools, and to the teaching of German. Sec. 4012 R. S. provides that in any township, special, village, or city district, or part thereof, parents or guardians of youth of school age may petition the board of education to organize an evening school, and if the petition contains the names of 25 children of school age who will attend such school, and who, for good reasons, are prevented from attending dayschool, the board of education shall provide the evening school, and employ a competent teacher. Here the need of 25 in the whole township or city shall be met and provided for by the board of education on the petition of their parents and guardians.

By sec. 4021 R. S. it is made the duty of the board of education of any district to cause the German language to be taught in the school under its control, when a demand therefor is made in writing by 75 freehold residents of the district representing not less than 40 pupils who are entitled to attend such school, and in good faith desire and intend to study the German and English languages together.

Now I would not say that a petition

signed by 25, or 40, or even 75 of the residents of each township should be sufficient to require the institution and organization of a county library. But, would it not be entirely reasonable and proper to make the institution and organization of such a library mandatory if 25 per cent of the men and women, who are school electors in the several townships, should sign a petition in favor of it?

The board of county commissioners would be the appropriate body to whom the petition should be addressed, and by whom the determining count should be made, at a time set for hearing, of which public notice had been given by publication, as is required in improved road, and other similar cases.

6 The county board of control should be appointive, and, in order to secure business efficiency, comparatively small, not exceeding seven members, with the power of their appointment lodged in various bodies representative of the different interests affected.

As to where the power of appointment of the members of the county board of control shall be lodged, there is room for much difference of opinion, and, owing to the diversity of conditions in the different counties, there cannot be uniformity. For instance, where there is an incorporated association which becomes the center of the county organization, it would seem to be just that a portion, perhaps a majority, of the board should be appointed by the trustees of the old association, which, under such circumstances, would remain intact for that purpose. In such case the remaining members of the county board might properly be appointed as follows: one by the county commissioners, one by the county school examiners, and one by the school board of the city.

Where a public library under the control of the city council enters the county organization, it might be well to provide for the city council to appoint part of the members, dividing the remainder around among the official bodies before named. Where no existing

public library enters the county organization, the power of appointment might be distributed among the various bodies of public officers already named, two to each, with the seventh one to be appointed by the court of common pleas, as is now done in Cincinnati; where the board consists of seven members, the remaining six being appointed, two by the board of education, two by the high school board, and two by the board of university trustees.

The law passed for the benefit of Van Wert county (93 O. L. 355) does not provide directly for a board of trustees of the county library; but power is granted to the county commissioners to "enter into an agreement on behalf of the county to provide and maintain a public library therein."

In the exercise of the authority thus conferred the commissioners of Van Wert county entered into a contract with the representatives of the Brumback estate (from which was received the library building) and the trustees of the Ladies' library association, whose books were turned over to the county library. By the terms of this contract the county library board is to consist of seven members, to be appointed as follows: three by the county commissioners, two by the Brumback heirs, and two by the Ladies' library association.

It is thought by those connected with the Van Wert library that this distribution of the appointing power will work satisfactorily, and bring good results, but there has not been time yet to test it. For myself, I think that too large a portion of the appointing power is placed with the board of commissioners. Such appointments are liable to prove objectionable for several reasons. In the first place, there is always great danger of their being political; but even if this be not the case, the appointees of the county commissioners will almost certainly be from the country, and will probably have neither experience in, nor adaptability for, managing library affairs. There is force in the argument that such appointments are necessary to popularize the library; but this pur-

pose can be as fully, and, I think, more safely accomplished through an advisory board, which constitutes the seventh special feature I wish to name.

7 To increase the general interest, and bring the various sections of the county more directly in touch with the work, there should be an advisory board, consisting of one or more representatives from each township or other designated district, having a sort of supervision of the township or district work, and holding stated county meetings for general discussion of library interests in the county.

8 When the system is once adopted in any county it should be imperative that the county commissioners each year make a levy of not less than a certain minimum amount for library purposes, which fund should only be paid out on the order of the county board of control.

The experience of library trustees in Ohio, I think, has already demonstrated the wisdom of having such a mandatory provision as to making a certain minimum levy. In this particular the Van Wert statute is defective; it fixes a maximum levy of a half mill, leaving the amount within that to the discretion of the commissioners. The Toledo statute fixes the precise amount of the levy, making it obligatory on the city council to certify it to the county auditor. The statute authorizing the school boards in cities of the fourth grade of the second class, wherein there is a free public library, to make a levy for library purposes, is mandatory, requiring the board to levy not less than three-tenths of a mill. If that minimum was not fixed in the law, the library with which I am connected would probably get nothing some years however much it might be needed.

In regard to the power of levy, the law applicable to Hamilton county is unique; it gives this power to the library trustees themselves, providing, however, that their levy shall not exceed a half mill.

9 All appointments, whether of trustees, librarian, or other employes or

officers, should be made wholly without regard to the political opinions of the person appointed.

While this is a most desirable feature of any library system, it might possibly be an objectionable feature of a proposed law as viewed by the strictly partisan legislator, whom I have found to be very slow in advocating any measure that might in his opinion tend to the weakening of party ties.

I have dwelt at considerable length upon what, as it seems to me, should be the essential features of a general county library law for Ohio. I have not the time to go into any discussion of recent library legislation in other states. But a comparative study of such legislation would show a very decided increase of interest in the subject of library extension. It would also show, I think, that Ohio is really taking the lead, as she ought. Of course her legislation thus far, it must be confessed, has been done in piecemeal, is largely patchwork, being composed of special laws which were the outgrowth of local agitations, and demands that were sentimental rather than practical. All such legislation must be classed as experimental; and we must therefore regard ourselves as still passing through an experimental stage. But some of these recent experiments are of an exceedingly hopeful kind. I think those of Cincinnati and Van Wert are the most interesting and suggestive, representing, as they do, the widely different conditions in the state, the one the large city and the other the country county town.

With these in successful operation to serve as precedents, backed by the increased interest in public libraries noticeable everywhere, I believe the time has come when this association, with its breadth of knowledge born of experience, its spirit of coöperation, and its missionary zeal, can through united effort bring order and method out of this almost chaos of diversity in library legislation and management, and place Ohio in the front rank, with a complete county library system, which shall serve as an inspiration and blessing to the

people of our own state, and possibly as a model, suggestive at least to the people of other states.

Mr Hopkins of Cincinnati proposed that W. T. Porter's name be added as an additional member of the committee on legislation when the new committee is appointed.

Mr Bonebrake, state superintendent of public instruction, was present at this meeting, and on invitation of Pres. Orr addressed the meeting at some length. He paid an earnest tribute to the work that is being done by the libraries of Ohio, and said that where the library was in coöperation with the schools, the latter were doing far better and larger work than ever before. He pledged his personal effort and influence to the work of the librarians in securing legislation adequate to the needs of their work.

Mr Bonebrake said that the new edition of the school laws of Ohio contains all the library laws effective in the state.

Miss Doren of Dayton brought a greeting from the American library association to the Ohio library association, inviting the members to attend the next meeting, which will be held in one of the nearby western states.

Mr Brett spoke of the invitation, and hoped the members of the Ohio library association, as far as possible, would attend the meeting, as they would gain much help and inspiration from mingling with the foremost library workers. Mr Brett offered the following resolution:

That the secretary of the Ohio library association be instructed to request from the secretary of the American Library Association printed matter issued during the year for the members of the Ohio library association.

A. S. Root, librarian of Oberlin college, gave an interesting talk on

German libraries

Mr Root's address was in the nature of an apology for German library methods. He called attention to the limitations under which all Prussian libraries are compelled to work; namely,

of being, from the American point of view, provided with an insufficient staff and an insufficient income. He also emphasized the part which the seminar libraries play in relieving the university libraries from the demand for the latest publications, which constitute so large a feature of the demand in our university libraries. Presupposing these conditions, he called attention to the fact that the arrangements which in German university libraries strike us as unusual, are in fact the result of necessity; that, for example, the requirement in order to draw books for home use that slips must be handed in the day before, is the inevitable result of the limited staff provided in the university libraries. The professor also discussed the classification and catalog question as solved by German libraries, and called attention to the fact that some of the modern American developments in classification had been anticipated by the Germans more than 150 years ago, citing as proof the new Harvard classification, which in all essential details resembles the method of the university library of Göttingen. He also called attention to the fact that the enormous expense involved in preparing a card catalog for the great libraries of Germany would be saved by the new printed general catalog of all the great Prussian libraries which is in active preparation, and that a card catalog containing later additions would be kept in each university library.

Small libraries' meeting

At the conclusion of Mr Root's address the Small library section withdrew and held its meeting in one of the anterooms. There was a much larger attendance at this meeting than had even been hoped for, but owing to the lateness of the hour the meeting was a hurried one. It has been proven, however, that the Small library section deserves a permanent place on the programs of the association. The reports of papers, etc., here follow.

The second annual meeting of the Small libraries' section was held in Memorial hall at Zanesville, Oct. 4, 1900.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Miss Mercer; 27 persons were present. After the reading of the secretary's report the following papers were presented: Library hours, by Linda M. Duval of the Ohio Wesleyan university; Right beginnings, by Mrs Julia G. Erwin of Painesville public library; Children's work in the small library, by May Lowe of Circleville public library; Periodicals, by Miss Baker of Mt Vernon. The papers were followed by a general discussion, but owing to the lateness of the hour the meeting was obliged to adjourn while at the height of its interest.

Regrets were read from Miss Wilson of Ironton, Miss White of Oxford, Pres. S. T. Mitchell of Wilberforce, and Mrs Angier of Mentor.

JULIA G. ERWIN, Sec'y,
Small libraries' section.

Library hours

Linda M. Duval, assistant librarian Ohio Wesleyan university

The small library is always devising ways and means of making itself more useful to the public; of ministering more largely to its intelligence and culture. It does this, perhaps, to a greater degree that its co-laborer, the large public library; for the large library has, naturally, a multitude of appreciative readers, and is the source and center of civic pride. The small library, on the other hand, must struggle to make itself necessary to the community, must make its value patent to everyone—not only to a few here and there, but to the majority of its constituents. In the large city the thousands of graduates of school and college, the club woman, the self-educated student, recognize the library as a great teaching force, as "the chalice to bright wine, which else had sunk into the thirsty earth." In the small community the library, though of far greater value because of the absence of other means of culture, is often regarded as an unnecessary luxury, existing only for the favored few. To overcome this indifference, the small library must make concessions out of all pro-

portion to remuneration and clerical force. In order to convince the public that it is getting the worth of its money, it must open its doors as many hours a day as it can, consistently with the endurance of its assistants.

Ideally speaking, the small library should be open during all the usual day and evening hours. Its only hope of growth and appreciation lies in its effort to meet every need. The leisure class, always small, has all hours for its own; the children demand the odd hours not spent in school, with a red letter Saturday between whiles; the working people must utilize the evening hours. This would seem to single out the afternoon and evening hours as most convenient for the majority. On Saturdays the small library should, by all means, be open during the entire day and early evening hours—say 10½ hours. This is a long day for the librarian who combines all departments in herself; but she will find the sacrifice amply repaid by increased interest in, and appreciation of the work, and in the end will be able to obtain assistance for that day, at least. In many such cases the experiment of voluntary help has been successfully tried. There are always some library lovers, who crave the privilege of being in and about the library, who would gladly give a few hours of service on Saturday for the sake of the experience and practical knowledge of books thus gained. To such an entrée into the privileges of the library, closer insight into books, contact with one who knows books as friends, the taste of many choice literary morsels not suited to the general palate, are compensation enough. In a college library, such as our own, there are always eager students who make excellent voluntary help. But if this cannot be done, it remains for the librarian by absolute system, by rigid training for his work, to make his labors as light as he can. The librarian of the small library has fully as much need of library training as if he were chief over many departments; for knowledge of the best methods and appliances is like oil to

machinery, preventing rust and unnecessary friction, and accelerating speed.

During the enervating weeks of summer due regard for all the interests of the library demands a shortening of the usual hours. Ordinary conditions in every other sphere of influence are disturbed at this time, and the library, too, should enter more fully into the spirit of recreation than the preparation of bulletins on Summer wanderings, the Arctics, Nansen, and the North Pole. The weekly half-holiday has proven, in numerous instances, the ladder by which many a librarian has risen in the scale of professional scholarship, and, in elevating herself, has lifted the intellectual level of the whole city. Illness is another obstacle which can be met only by the retention of a supply, for it is clear that no one can do good work when physically unfitted for it.

We have no sympathy for those who would place the public and the librarian in opposing camps; who protest that the library service of both the old and the new world was established primarily for the assistant, and only incidentally for the rate-paying citizen. The librarian and the public are allies. The true librarian loves herself last, and if she asks for shorter hours, it is only because a wearied body and benumbed brain cannot do their best for the public, which she is so anxious to serve faithfully. The library assistant does not ask for six or seven hours, or any other time limit à la trades unions; she does not ask for the payment of subscriptions to bicycle, golf, tennis, with life insurance thrown in, as our carping British brother in a recent number of the Library journal would have us believe; but she does ask for enough rest time to keep fresh and vigorous, for opportunity to improve herself, all this, be it understood, for her work's sake.

It is true that the experience of many librarians favors the six-hour limit, for library work is intensely thoughtful and scholarly on the one side, and physically exhaustive on the other. Still, local conditions must decide what is best. In any case, let us not make the

mistake of impressing the public too much with our own value, but rather lean toward the side of self-denial, following the law of service. The belief in the work, which inspires the librarian to this self-sacrifice, will infect, in a greater or less degree, all those who work with her; and this it is which will bring about right conditions, to the mutual benefit of both public and library assistant.

In last year's discussion on the same subject Miss Smith cited the following interesting statistics, gathered from 11 of the best known and most successful libraries of the country outside of Ohio: 8 hours daily service is required in 2 of the libraries, $6\frac{1}{2}$ in one, an average of 7 in one, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ in all the rest—the whole averaging a little less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours; 8 of the 11 allow a half-holiday, and 1 shortens the hours somewhat in summer; 8 allow time for illness; 5 allow full pay, 2 half pay, and 2 make special arrangements. Four of these libraries, Carnegie of Pittsburg, Buffalo, Springfield (Mass.), and Princeton university, have adopted the hour system, i. e., so many hours a week or month, rather than a stated number of hours a day. These are all large libraries, but I thought a comparison might be valuable. The large and the small library, like the great and the obscure man, are alike up to a certain margin; beyond that margin there is a surplus on one side.

In concluding all these matters, Mr Dewey is very fond of saying that a good thing can always be done providing we possess the quality of "divine patience." And Samuel Smiles tells us that, To think we are able is almost to be so; to determine upon attainment is frequently attainment itself. Thus earnest resolution has often seemed to have about it almost a savor of Omnipotence.

The next paper on the program was

Right beginnings

Mrs Julia G. Erwin, librarian, Painesville, Ohio

In the few moments assigned to this topic all that I shall attempt to do is to

make a few suggestions, with the hope that they may give a little practical help to the person who is striving to solve the problems of the new library in the small town. Let us consider then what these may be.

We will suppose that a nucleus has been formed and funds provided for its support. The next question naturally arising is, who shall be the librarian? There will be a score of applications from people whose chief recommendation is a fondness for reading, and who desire the position because it is a respectable sinecure which will furnish them a larger opportunity for their favorite pastime. This remark applies equally well to many of the aspirants for the place of assistant in a library. The discriminating board of trustees will tactfully set aside these opportunities, and will find some one with a broader conception of the library and with some training in library methods. However small the library there are certain indispensable qualifications which he must possess. He should be made of good stuff, for as Mr Dewey says: You can't polish a pumpkin. He should have a liberal education and a love of humanity, for these two are essential to accomplishing the purpose of the library, viz., that of bringing the right book to the right person at the right moment. He should certainly have had some special training in good library methods, and should be progressive enough to keep in touch with the great forward movement of the library. He must have enthusiasm, but let him not mistake gush for enthusiasm. Gush effervesces, but never becomes good wine. Enthusiasm literally means possessed by a god, and surely every librarian should have within a steadfast purpose to help the world to nobler living by helping each individual whom he can. He need not proclaim his purpose by means of a brass band or flying colors; he can keep himself in the background and make the library the means of helpfulness. It is his business to set the wheels in motion and keep them going. It is just here that special training is

to furnish the motive power, and that leads to a consideration of tools. Let the first tool be an accession book and keep it up to date. If the work must be done in haste, no time should be wasted for the future by failing to put the essential entries in the accession book. At least have author, title, publisher, source, and price accurately entered. Never forget to write the accession number in the book itself. This may seem an unnecessary caution, but experience has revealed the fact that it is sometimes neglected, and precious hours may be wasted in searching through several thousand entries for the one desired. Do no unnecessary work, but be sure that you carefully discriminate as to what is unnecessary. Nothing is unnecessary which is going to be useful to some one, and nothing should be passed over now which may save hours of time later on. In a library of about 35,000v., where good library methods had not been used, I once saw a white-haired, tremulous old man struggling to discover the source of the books in the library from memory and from scattered memoranda. It was a pathetic argument for right beginnings. The library should be carefully classified at once, bringing the books of each class together. For this purpose nothing is better than the Decimal classification prepared by Mr Dewey, the beauty of which is that it allows for additions at every point. I would classify closely even in the smallest library.

In addition to the class number there should be a book number, which will give each book in a class its position on the shelves in proper relation to every other volume.

The Cutter-Sanborn author tables are the best tools for this work. In the small library it is not necessary to use the full number as given. It is better to use only one figure, except in fiction and biography, where two are sufficient. In fiction the author number should be followed by a letter indicating the title of the book, e. g., use W68j for Miss Wilkin's *The Jamesons*, then when you add Heart's highway use W68h, which

brings the book into its proper alphabetic relation to those already on the shelves. In biography assign the book number from the name of the biographee, and it has been found useful to add the initial of the author, e. g., Use T65 for Tolstoi's biography, but T65s for Sergiyenko's *Life of Tolstoi*.

As soon as possible a shelf-list should be prepared, as it can be so quickly done, and gives you practically a classed catalog for use while the more complete work is being done. If a title-list of fiction, or any class of books likely to be called for by title, can be made, it will be found very useful. This is by no means to supply the place of the catalog, but is merely a suggestion for making the time during which the catalog is being prepared less trying. In a small library the simpler the charging system and the less red tape revealed the better, provided the necessary data are secured. The smaller the library the more carefully it should be mined that every possible resource may be made available.

If you have received wagon loads of unassorted magazines, take courage. Arrange them even though they may not be loaned for some time to come; watch for opportunities to fill up the gaps. Get Poole's index and the Cumulative index and you can accomplish far more than would seem possible to the uninitiated. Above all, don't be scornful of the library because it lacks many of the things which seem absolutely essential. Be patient and keep sweet, and one by one they will surely come, until some day you will be surprised to find what a power the library has become in the community.

This paper was followed by an address as follows:

Children's work in the small library

May Lowe, Circleville, Ohio

In the preparation of this subject I have neither the time nor the ability to do more than to make a rough draft, under three or four subheadings, thus treating it in a series of notes, trusting to the librarians to fill in and add to this

skeleton, until it is rounded out to a tolerably respectable form.

In dealing with children, in the library as well as elsewhere, of first importance should be placed a genial manner, but not forced geniality. A natural liking for children will impart a naturalness to your pleasant manner which is of paramount importance when treating with children. Young people (and the younger they are the more this rule seems to apply) are gifted with the ability to distinguish between the diamond of a naturally pleasant manner and the Rhinestone of an assumed pleasantness.

It is, perhaps, well not to employ an effusive manner, for children, especially boys, dislike this. Effusiveness is not an essential feature of a pleasant manner. In intercourse with children, to style them "sweet little pets" when, ten to one, they are dirty little ragamuffins, will not only shock the child's sense of divine fitness, but will also lay him open to the ridicule of his companions, and will bring down upon your devoted head his dislike and not his gratitude. Some cheerful remark or question about his school or his play, or, in case he have the stubbed toe or the broken arm to which Young America is, alas! addicted, a sympathetic word pertaining thereto will cause him to consider the librarian his friend, and this opinion once established in the juvenile mind it is the fault of the librarian if it is ever changed.

I know a librarian, a very kind woman, but one, unfortunately, whose manner does not express the kindness of her heart, who is characterized as "cross" by the children whom she would gladly help, and whose influence for good is materially lessened thereby. So between a coldly reserved and a gushing manner, let us try to strike the happy medium of a natural geniality.

In most small libraries it is impossible (whether from lack of books, of room, or of assistance) to have a room set apart for the children; but even without the special room we may still

do a great deal of special work with children.

Of inspirations to the reading of good literature I think nothing is of more assistance than the Bulletin board. I count among my best work a year's experiment with a stationary blackboard upon which, as often as might be, were written in chalk short reading courses, often illustrated, and taking up all manner of subjects—history, science, nature study, story books, etc.

The introduction of the books of the Ohio Pupil's reading course, with as many books of supplementary reading as the library can afford to buy, is one of the very best means to instill into children a taste for good literature.

In towns where school children are expected to bring in composition work, prepared out of school, the library may find another field open to cultivation.

Since it seems to be the plan of the schools to provide a set of molds, all the same size and shape, into which the children are poured, with a firm hope (fortunately unfounded and unrealized) that they will all turn out just alike, the librarian finds added opportunities for the difficult task of giving help which the teacher should have given. Thus, when the boys and girls of from eight to twelve appear, having such subjects as Julius Cæsar, or the Early Christians, or Perseverance, it is no easy matter to persuade them that they could write better essays about some simple, familiar object. Sometimes they will take the librarian's advice, and produce fairly readable little compositions, but some few will be content with nothing less than the Britannica and the privilege of being left alone.

An amusing incident illustrating this point occurred with a class from one of our schools—a class of children, by the way, capable of doing reasonably good composition work on familiar subjects.

At the time in question their theme was The people of South America, or something of the sort. Imagine the surprise of the principal who examined the compositions when seven were found exactly, word for word, alike!

The most difficult of all school children to impress with the idea of simplicity in subject and treatment are those who have arrived at the all-knowing age, and are preparing their essays for graduation. And until a different method prevails it is probable that the world will continue to be instructed upon the True meaning of life, and the Australian ballot system the hope of our nation, by the girl to whom life, at present, means an expensive white dress and a carload of presents, and the youth who will not, for several years, test any system of voting.

It would surely be better if the teacher would encourage and teach children to think for themselves on matter-of-fact subjects, or to cultivate the imagination when fanciful subjects are chosen. But the first, and often the only thought of the child, is to go to the library and find a book containing an article which he can copy. Once a wee maiden approached with a request for a book out of which she could get an essay on Behavior. She was armed with a list of topics: How should I behave in school? How should I behave in church? etc., to the number of 10 or 12. She seemed totally unable to comprehend the advice which urged her to depend, not upon a book, but upon herself, and only reiterated that she just must have a book. Assuring her that her wants would be attended to I casually remarked that a great many children seem very rude and noisy while going to and from school. Sallie expressed the view, couched in very child-like and natural language, that, in her opinion, boisterous manners on the street are entirely uncalled for and improper. In a five-minutes conversation I brought out her own thought and opinion on every one of those topics, and a more intelligent spirit seemed to possess her as she promised not to look at a book while writing down her essay, but to write just what she had said to me.

In a town where the teacher thinks it is her duty only to tell the child what subject he is to prepare himself upon, and not how to find something upon

that subject, the quantity of work to be done for children, in the library, is a matter of how many hours, minutes, and seconds the librarian is at her post. But we are glad to know that all the teachers are not of this class. But as long as any remain, the librarian will find time to perform, not only the legitimate work of the library, but also dozens of things which the teacher should do.

A paper on the Use of reference works, by Miss Baker of Mt Vernon, was next read, but a copy was not furnished for publication.

At its close the section adjourned.

College section. A. S. Root, chairman;
Olive Jones, secretary.

The chairman stated that it was the desire to make the meeting of the College section as informal as possible.

N. D. C. Hodges, of the Cincinnati public library, spoke first on the subject of coöperation in preparing a list of sets of scientific periodicals to be found in Ohio. He said that he was uncertain as to how it could be done. It involved considerable expense. It would be desirable to have three lists in Ohio, similar to the one prepared by Mr Putnam in Boston—one, a list of periodicals to be found in Cincinnati and vicinity; one in Columbus and vicinity, and one in Cleveland and vicinity. Possibly four or five lists would be desirable. He did not see, however, just how this could be done, since such lists did not materialize from the air, and boards of trustees did not always have money to assist in such enterprises. Mr Orr suggested that type-written copies might be made; Mr Root, that the Boston list might be checked by the Ohio libraries and a list made from that. Miss Jones suggested checking Bolton's catalog. Mr Root offered to have type-written sheets made after the list had been checked.

After some further discussion a committee, consisting of Messrs. Hodges and Orr and Miss Jones, was appointed to formulate and put in operation a plan for having such a list prepared.

Mr Brett next spoke to the section

on the subject of coöperative cataloging, giving a good account of what had been done at the last meeting of the A. L. A. There was some question of the feasibility of providing the cards at the prices mentioned. Mr Brett said that he had such confidence in the men at the head of the work that he felt like accepting their statements without question. In the discussion which followed the advisability of elaborate cataloging was seriously questioned by Mr Hodges, both Mr Hodges and Miss Jones holding the position that less money on the catalog and more in the reference room would work to the greater good of the public. Mr Root and Mr Brett upheld the catalog.

The question of coöperation in library loans was presented by Mr Orr. Owing to the lateness of the hour there was no opportunity for discussion of this question.

Officers were elected for the next year as follows: Chairman, N. D. C. Hodges of Cincinnati public library; secretary, Edward Williams of Adelbert college library.

OLIVE JONES, Secretary.

Thursday evening

Thursday evening, at 8 o'clock, the association convened at Memorial hall. The question box, in charge of M. E. Ahern, was opened.

Among the questions asked were these:

Should daily papers be bound in small libraries?

A. Not until pressing needs are met.

Do you advise works of fiction in college libraries?

A. So far as needed in the study of literature.

What do you think of signs enforcing quiet in reading-rooms?

A. Do not favor them.

What about the Elsie books?

A. Absolutely pernicious, and their presence is inexcusable.

What view should be taken regarding children's books?

A. Should be wholesome and high-minded, and carefully written.

How can a library get rid of undesirable books?

A. Let them get lost, strayed, or worn out.

In an open-shelf library what should be done with fiction for children?

A. Let the collection of fiction be small. Scatter, whenever possible, the stories with the subject they illustrate.

What do you think of examinations for assistants asking positions in small libraries?

A. A wise and just plan.

What do you think of a chairman who gives an assistant, wholly unfit, a place, and wants her to rank as equal with librarian?

A. The chairman is more unfit than the assistant.

Nearly two hours were spent discussing the questions submitted, and everyone present enjoyed the discussion.

The committee on resolutions recommend the following for adoption:

Report of committee on resolutions

1 Bequests for library purposes call forth perpetual gratitude from the living. We especially commend the liberal spirit of the late J. S. Brumback, who made provision in his will for the establishment of a free public library for Van Wert county. We also commend the disinterested zeal of the heirs of his estate, and the wisdom of the commissioners of Van Wert county who have coöperated to carry out those provisions and make the bequest available for the people of the county. We trust that the work they have successfully inaugurated may be imitated elsewhere throughout the state.

2 We are pleased to express our appreciation of the liberal gifts of Andrew Carnegie. By providing library buildings for East Liverpool, Sandusky, and Steubenville he has not only linked his name for all time with the educational interests of those cities, but has set an example for enlightened philanthropy elsewhere.

3 We commend the public spirit of Hon. Tod B. Galloway, probate judge of Franklin county, and the board of

school examiners thereof, in organizing and putting into operation a local traveling library system extending to the rural schools of their county.

4 We recognize and appreciate the work done in recent years by the Ohio state library. We are in hearty sympathy with the effort to make it in fact as well as in name a state institution. Through it the traveling library system was introduced into Ohio, and, under the present administration, it has been extended to every part of the state. Through it, also, the sketches of Ohio libraries recommended by this association will soon be issued, a publication that will aid materially in the work of library extension.

5 That we extend our sincere thanks to the Seventy-fourth general assembly for increased appropriations for the state library, and increased levies for the cities of Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, and Toledo. To that body we are also under obligations for authority to publish the sketches of Ohio libraries.

6 This association views with unqualified satisfaction the appointment of its president, Charles Orr, to a position on the Board of library commissioners, and heartily approves the reappointment of Hon. J. F. McGrew, giving continuity, and thus ensuring stability in the administration of the state library, a prime requisite to the successful management of that institution.

7 We favor the enactment, by congress, of legislation authorizing books belonging to and circulated by public libraries to be entered as second-class mail matter when addressed from or to a public library.

8 That a committee be appointed to confer with the committee on legislation appointed by the State teachers' association, for the purpose of outlining and recommending a library system for the rural schools of the state.

9 Resolved, that the committee on library training be recognized as one of the standing committees of the association, and that it be instructed to collect information upon the educational and technical requirements for library as-

sistants in the various libraries of Ohio.

10 We recommend, in the line of the address on legislation for library extension, presented by S. L. Wicoff at this meeting of the association, that steps be taken to provide a comprehensive library system for the state. We especially favor his recommendations for permissive legislation that will make possible county organization, and the incorporation of such organizations in the general system of the state, utilizing and invoking the cooperation of the local library elements already existing in such county. We also emphatically indorse his recommendation, that all appointments to positions shall be made wholly without regard to the political opinions held by the person appointed.

[Signed] S. L. WICOFF,
E. C. DOREN,
C. B. GALBREATH,
Committee on resolutions.

The foregoing report on resolutions was, by vote of the association, adopted.

Mr Hodges of Cincinnati presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Ohio Library association appreciate highly the courtesies extended to the members, during the session now closing, by the trustees of the Zanesville Athenæum and Buckingham library, by Col. C. C. Goddard, Dr E. C. Brush, Miss M. A. Stillwell, Alice Searle, and the proprietors of the Weller Pottery and tile works, and would formally place on record that it recognizes that through their kindness the Zanesville meeting has been made pleasant and successful.

Mr Hopkins moved that the report of the extension committee be referred to the executive committee.

Mr Hensel moved that the members of the association thank the officers for their efforts to make this meeting successful.

The meeting adjourned.

At the close of the regular session an informal meeting of the outgoing and incoming officers was held when plans for the future were discussed.

MARTHA MERCER, Secretary.
Mansfield, Ohio.

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau	-	-	-	-	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	-	-	-	-	Editor
Subscription	-	-	-	-	\$1 a year
Five copies to one library	-	-	-	-	\$4 a year
Single number	-	-	-	-	20 cents

PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August or September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

THE librarians of the middle west should begin now to plan for attendance at the meetings of the American Library Association next year, since it will be held in this section of the country. It is almost inevitable that it will go far down east the next year, probably to Boston, and 1901 offers the chance to get the full benefit of the American Library Association meeting at little expense. Plan to attend.

A CORRESPONDENT writes that she has been hard at work for two years to raise money for a public library, but has succeeded in collecting only \$1000, and then asks for suggestions as to how to succeed better.

We should like to repeat here the suggestion which we gave, namely, don't wait for a building before starting the library. In fact it seems much the wiser plan to wait until the library is a well grounded institution in the community before making any effort to secure a permanent home for it. The ultimate purpose and work of the library will develop under the experience of its first years, and no one can tell at first what will be the ultimate needs in the way of a building.

Buildings and books do not make libraries—intelligent service outranks both of these. We have seen no reason to change the oft expressed opinion that a small collection of books, in charge of a well trained, sympathetic librarian, will do far more good in a community than a large number of books with some one in charge who has no higher conception of the position than the emolument it affords, and whose only interest in results is to show a large circulation.

Start your library on a small scale if you must, but be concerned first that it does all that it can of what a public library should do in a community. Building and books will inevitably follow such an effort.

THE Iowa legislature was most generous to the library demands of its constituency last winter, but a close observance of conditions and a proper conception of the different elements involved give rise to a question of the wisdom of the future results.

In a large number of the cities and towns of the state are public libraries in varying degrees of advancement—some in rags, and some in tags, and some in velvet gowns. The new library commission and its efficient secretary, Miss Tyler, will doubtless bring to all of these the help and inspiration for which they have been looking for many a day, and the prospect in Iowa for the uplifting of the old public libraries and the starting of new ones on right principles is very encouraging.

The legislature enacted another law requiring the treasurer of each school township and rural district to withhold annully not less than 5 cents and not more than 15 cents for every person of school age resident in each school corporation, for the purchase of books for a school library.

Here is a division of the library forces, and when division comes dissipation of strength follows. Schools should have good reference books and supplementary reading in their libraries; but when they attempt to go beyond these they are taking more upon themselves than they can accomplish well, and, moreover, some legitimate work will have to go undone to give time for this library effort. Can the schools add another duty to the work they have on their hands already? Many wise minds advise them to unload many things they have taken up heretofore rather than break down under their present pressure.

Under the law quoted above many a youth compelled to early enter the field

of labor is deprived of his share of the tax because he is no longer in the school; while if the library was put in charge of a public institution, carried on for library purposes alone, he could still have access to it, and not only he, but many another adult who is now without its help.

In most cases the library in the school is closed during vacations, and no one is benefited by it. A new teacher comes the next term and there is no continuity of effort in leading the young people to love to read.

If the school people will take on themselves this duty, so plainly outside the lines for which they are appointed, they should at least appoint competent persons to take charge of the library work alone, both for the conservatism of the power of the library, and for the welfare of the teachers, who are already raising a feeble cry for help to carry all the duties thus far committed to their charge.

MUCH has been said at library meetings and written in various places about library reports, and still there is cause for criticism of many of the printed reports which librarians send out for the edification of their constituency, and the information of those interested elsewhere.

Members of library boards should be, and doubtless are, concerned to know the bare statistical facts which constitute the whole report of many libraries, which ought to report other things if they do not, and to them these reports are due. But what possible excuse can there be for putting such matter in print and sending it out in the world? In a very few cases they furnish means of comparison of statistics for libraries of the same size and kind, but nothing more, not a hint of how these figures come to represent anything. The public is expected verily to believe that in this case figures will not lie. Not a suggestion of how anything is done or why; not a hint that can be seized upon, and made to do duty for another library worker.

It is useless to waste time, material,

and means in publishing such reports—they can be used to far better advantage in other ways, but probably not by the class of people who send out these reports. A case in point was that of a librarian who, not long since, gave the writer a copy of such a report, with a half apologetic smile, remarking that it was not very good, but some of the people of the town thought they were interested in the library, and so they had gotten out this report to satisfy them.

That librarian is a round peg in a square hole, and no surprise was elicited at the meagerness of the work of the library as shown by the report. To such people one must, perforce, feel like emphatically giving the advice which served on another occasion, DON'T. It is usually too, the library that can least afford to spend its money ineffectively that wastes it in such reports. The bright side of the picture comes from the many really good, helpful annual reports that are sent out, but they are in the minority. The Carnegie library at Pittsburg, the Cleveland public library, the Free library of Philadelphia, among the large libraries; the Dayton (Ohio) public library, the Des Moines (Iowa), the Brookline (Mass.), and Scoville library at Oak Park, Ill., of the smaller ones, are a few of the notable exceptions, of which there are enough to make a showing, but not so many as there should be.

If a report is for anyone outside the trustees it is for the people of the community which the library serves, and for all kinds of people. If a teacher takes up such a report he should be able to learn from it of what service the library may be to him. So of the preacher, of the laborer of any kind that is seeking for help in his line. It should also attract a reader to the library where there was none before, and everything told in the report should be presented in such a way as will not only give information to those to whom it is addressed, but should really contain information of what the library is doing, and how and why it is done, for the information of those to whom it is sent. Make a good report or none at all.

Joint Meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club and the Western Massachusetts Library Club

On arrival at North Adams the members of both clubs took a most enjoyable trolley ride to Williamstown, where the grounds of Williams college and the college library were inspected under most favorable conditions, several of the college students acting as guides. The weather was warm and fine, and after the dusty ride in the steam cars from Boston through the Hoosac tunnel the fresh air and beautiful scenery proved most invigorating. Shortly after seven o'clock the members assembled at the North Adams public library, originally a private house, presented to the city by Mr Houghton. This was thoroughly inspected, considerable interest being expressed in the newly-fitted children's room with its charming pictures and simple, serviceable lilliputian furniture, designed by the Library Bureau. This room was specially interesting, having been fitted up in memory of three children by their father, which fact will be related by a bronze tablet when the room is completed and opened.

A 8 p. m. a well-attended public meeting was held in the fine hall of the Normal school, and presided over by Dr H. L. Koopman, president of the Massachusetts library club. Mr Ashe, city solicitor, in the unavoidable absence of the mayor, addressed a few words of welcome to the joint clubs. He hoped that the clubs would revisit North Adams for a less hurried sojourn, and said that the strong, growing community living the "strenuous life" were both proud of their library and appreciative of its value and the services of its promoters. Mr Koopman then announced that the Cape Cod library club consisted of eight libraries from the eastern part of the state, and was affiliated to the Massachusetts library club, the new handbook of which would be published in January next, containing information concerning all the library clubs in the different parts of the state

with references to their past meetings and lists of members and addresses.

Henry Turner Bailey, of the Massachusetts state board of education, then gave a most interesting and suggestive lecture on Public libraries and art education, illustrated with lantern slides. He disclaimed any attempt to dictate to librarians, of whose good work in this connection he was cognizant, but was glad of the opportunity to say a few words on the subject. He began by comparing America to a growing boy, too busy to think of anything beyond acquiring sufficiently large clothes, and absolutely indifferent to externals, until suddenly he evinces an interest in the blacking of his boots, and later becomes alive to the advantages of clean collars. He said that America had only recently attained her majority, and hitherto had thought of many things, but not of beauty; that she had been ugly up to the time of the centennial, having then only arrived at the "boot-blackening stage," while at the time of the World's fair a more hopeful interest had been awakened in beautiful things corresponding to the "clean-collar" period in the evolution of the boy, since when an increasing interest in the beautiful had been shown, as witnessed by the public parks and buildings, beauty in business structures, homes for the people, and public schools for the children now being demanded as essential. In the last 10 years 10 new high schools had been erected at a cost of \$1000, and 100 cities had spent \$50,000 for pictures, photos, and casts for the benefit of the scholars. These pictures, many of them works of the old masters, are studied for story, artistic value, technique and composition, and photographs from nature, in connection with history, geography and language.

He advocated the use of pictures in connection with Sunday-school work, demands coming constantly from teachers, and said that more pictures should be used in the primary departments of instruction; he also referred to the mass of information respecting art at present collected by women's clubs all over the

country of which use might be made. He said that the American people were a little more modest now than 10 years ago when æstheticism was sacrificed to individuality, resulting in every sort of incongruity in architecture and furniture, between the periods of the centennial and the World's fair. The present attitude was not "what I like so much as what I ought to like," an outcome in some degree due to the influence of public libraries and clubs.

Mr Bailey said that art museums ought to have traveling as well as permanent exhibits, and that libraries could be made to encourage art in the home by means of exhibitions of colonial and other old furniture. He then pointed out that the best way in which libraries could aid in the promotion of art education was in cooperating with the school supervisors of drawing, and supplying their needs, 90 per cent of the schools being under supervision. He stated that immediate accessibility of material was essential, and described his method of filing pictures, descriptions, and notes required for his work, emphasizing the extreme importance of using different colored mounts or mats suitable for each picture instead of using one uniform color for all, which was a great mistake, as every picture, print, or reproduction required special treatment in this respect in order to bring out its salient points. He showed the cards, 10x14 inches, on which he mounted pictures on one side, and pasted envelopes on the other, in which cuttings, clippings, or material relative thereto are placed, and notes made on the outside of the envelope as to the whereabouts of relative matter in books or magazines or elsewhere, these cards, 10x14 inches, he filed alphabetically under the artist in drawers.

He advocated not only the use of the whole picture, but of the detail therein, also exemplifying its value by throwing on the screen the Sistine Madonna, and then the head of the Madonna and Child only, enlarged to show the expression of the faces in relation to the rest of the picture, and in addition threw

on the screen reproductions of celebrated buildings and statues from all points of view, complete and in dissected detail showing the series and interrelation of parts. This, he said, was made essential to the proper understanding of any work of art, and instanced a case where some school children had been shown the façade of Cologne cathedral only, which on interrogation they identified as such, but on further questioning as to the meaning of the word façade displayed lamentable uncertainty, only one scholar admitting that a façade was a thing you set up in front of a building. Mr Bailey concluded his inspiring address with a strong plea for the better art education of the working man; the hope of the future lay in encouraging him by means of better and more artistic models to make simple, beautiful, and artistic everyday necessities, and added that if "the art of a nation is the expression of its life," then America in the future should have the greatest and best art, and it was the privilege of the librarians to assist in bringing about a higher standard of art appreciation.

The work of the Massachusetts Library art club was then briefly described by Miss Chandler, who stated that a full report had been already submitted to the Plymouth meeting of 1899, since when the club had been incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts, its aims and objects being limited to New England. Membership entailing an annual fee of \$5 had attained to 85. Its property consisted of 30 sets of pictures on which transportation charges only are paid by the borrower, insurance being defrayed by the club; these sets are augmented by loans from publishers and others, and the number of exhibitions held has been 405. Referring to Mr Bailey's desire for traveling art museums, she stated that the Boston Art museum would be prepared to loan specimens of some of its art treasures if borrowers would guarantee to case them and care for them in the same way as the museum itself. Mr Green, of Worcester, spoke at some length,

emphasizing the importance of getting always the best procurable in art, and referring to an excellent series of reproductions now coming out in a series called, *Masters in art*. Mr Cutter, of Forbes library, Northampton, said he had already spoken on the subject at Montreal, and he therefore would not take up the time of the meeting, except to commend the excellent method of filing pictures demonstrated by Mr Bailey, which was, however, accomplished, he ventured to think, somewhat more economically by most libraries by means of manilla envelopes or L. B. file boxes.

He said that personal influence was of enormous importance in stimulating interest in art, and wished it were possible to secure the services of Mr Bailey for similar addresses to the one to which they had just listened, so ably delivered and so agreeably illustrated. He advocated the desirability of having some one present at picture exhibitions prepared to give information as to the pictures displayed.

Mr Dana, of Springfield City library, then walked up to the platform, on which he placed a chair to demonstrate the simplicity and beauty of its lines. He said he had greatly admired the chairs in the children's reading-room at North Adams. He deprecated the expensive note in the present decoration of schoolrooms, in which simplicity should be the keynote, and called attention to the prohibitiveness of art in most of the dwellings of the people, stating that the most important things were those in daily use, and those which aroused pleasurable as well as helpful emotions, and affirming that art in household decoration and furniture, in order to appeal to the people, must come within the range of their pockets. He also advocated close cooperation with the supervisors of schools.

Mr Bailey said that he quite agreed with Mr Dana as to the great importance of the arts and crafts' side of art education as instanced by art in common things, such as knives, forks, locks, chests, keys, etc., illustrations of beau-

tiful specimens of which things he had already thrown on the screen, quoting Emerson's program of art instruction, and saying that he would like to draw attention to the course of constructive art in the Newton schools, which was considered the best in Massachusetts, adding that the Boston art museum had consented to reproduce for circulation pictures of specimens which had been carefully selected for the furtherance of the constructive art education, and advocating collections of colonial furniture, etc., as the basis of study, as in many instances these things were locally available in public libraries, and the simplicity of workmanship, beauty of line, and economy of material, engendered in students an appreciation of refined art.

On Friday morning, October 5, members of the joint clubs approximating 60 trolleyed to Adams, and there inspected the well-appointed library, being welcomed by the chairman of the library trustees, Dr Burton, and called to order by Mr Fletcher of Amherst, president of the Western Massachusetts library club, in the Grand army hall above the library. Dr Burton said the library was started in 1864 as a private library, and was run by subscriptions and yearly dues till 1878, when it was given over to the town, and later a new building provided in which he had the pleasure of addressing them. The corner-stone was laid by President McKinley, and the chair in which he sat at the dedication was displayed.

Mr Plunkett, through Dr Burton, cordially invited the members to come over and see the cotton mill, opposite the library, one of the largest of its kind in the state.

Miss Sargent, of Medford public library, then read a concise, interesting account of the work of the library with the schools, which began in 1894 in one school, and was hailed with the appreciation of the teachers. Miss Sargent stated that much of the so-called juvenile literature, though classed as harmless, fails to be stimulating to mental growth, and furnishes no inspiration

for the life and character, and said that quality, not number, is essential to form intelligence and character, a discriminating selection being more than ever necessary, and that work with quite young children should begin, not by proscribing books as unfit, but by placing better ones in reach, laying in this way the foundation of a taste for good reading among those who will be the future men and women, the need not being for a great variety, but for several copies of the best. She said that flattery, diplomacy, tact, and argument were all justifiable tools to employ in influencing the powers that be to carry out ideas; that where satisfactory results are not obtained by the teachers, some of whom accepted the extra work cordially, being interested in the children under their care, the superintendent or members of the school committee must be interested, or influence brought to bear on the parents.

She said that books were now sent to all but the kindergartens and the high schools, the teachers in the last preferring to make their own selections, and the expense of transportation being paid out of the school appropriation.

Miss Sargent read notes from the report of the superintendent of schools, in which it was stated that the training in discrimination would be of inestimable value to the children on leaving school when they are thrown on their own resources. The children have free access to the books after lesson hours, and in this way each of the 65 schoolrooms becomes a branch library, and more homes are reached than would be possible in any other way. Moreover, the training of choice is of great value to the child, practice in selection from the sets of books fitting him for the larger selection in the library itself. Twelve books go to each school, with a record book in which the name of the teacher and school are recorded, and inside the author title of the book loaned, with name of borrower, date of loan, and return. These sets are returned every six weeks and other sets substituted. Each set has one volume of poetry in-

cluded, in the hope of stimulating the education of the feelings, a form of culture needful for the complete human being, "quickenning his perception and rousing his imagination to a degree, enabling him to feel the significance of the beautiful," as Prof. Norton says; the beautiful which Goethe says "is greater than the good," to which Mill adds, "is the good made perfect." Miss Sargent hoped none would be deterred by the reported discouraging discussion at the recent New York Library club, from putting their whole soul into the much-needed work.

Miss Stanley of Brookline public library then described the work of the school reference room of the Brookline public library, which was begun in October, 1899. This room is intended for the use of school students wishing to consult books, and is supplied with reference books, and 1300v. of supplementary or collateral reading; one copy is kept on the shelves and duplicates are sent to the schools. Teachers come and make selections of books for school use, and esteem it a saving of time and labor to have brought together in one place the bulk of what is likely to be needed, whilst the librarian profits by the running comments of the teachers making selections.

The nucleus was selected by the superintendent of schools and a committee of teachers, and additions are chiefly recommended by the librarians to the school board on the strength of the teachers' comments.

There are loaned 20 books at a time for four weeks before renewal; these are provided with a slip so that if loaned for home use to the pupil proper record can be made. An attempt was made to develop the use of the reference room by means of lessons to public school children; this has been described in the library report for last year. The value of coöperation could not be doubted, but the initiative had to come from the library. Many teachers made cordial response, but those that did not deserve sympathy on account of the many things expected of them, and the extra labor

involved in assuming what practically amounts to a branch librarianship.

Miss Stanley thought that the labor of distributing books to the children belonged rightly to the library and not to the school-teacher.

Distribution through the schools was not the same as distribution to the schools. The chief importance in work of this kind was, she thought, to bring teachers and librarians into more mutually helpful relations.

Mrs Sanders of Pawtucket (R. I.) public library then read a paper on The relation of the library to the school child, in which she quoted experiences with the child in the library, and advocated the free use of pictures as of great value, stating that she circulated the Perry pictures in manilla envelopes, on the outside of which descriptions, notes, and references were written. She said the child formed a link between the library and the home, and thereby increased the value of the library to the community. She noted the increased need of reference in libraries for public school work, and drew attention to present as compared with the past attitude of libraries to the needs of the child. Miss Williams of Malden public library then quoted her experience with regard to delivery stations, of which four are located in drug stores, one in a fancy goods store, and another in a little shoe store. There are three deliveries per week. No books can be taken from the stations by the carrier till 9 a. m., and all have to be at their stations by 3.30 p. m. The transportation is contracted for by a stable keeper, who carries the heavy rubber cloth-lined book baskets in a covered cart at less cost than the express companies. Each station has registration blanks, but cards are made out at the library. Fines can be paid at the station and forwarded to the library to save delay in getting new books. More people use the library by means of these stations, and though personal contact with borrowers is missed, yet ease in obtaining books to some extent compensates for this.

Mrs Patch of Danvers being absent,

Mr Foss of Somerville public library proceeded to describe the system of summer vacation cards inaugurated this summer as a matter of simple justice to taxpayers and citizens temporarily away from the city on their vacations, by which system patrons are allowed to take out 10 books on each card, only half of the number being fiction. There were 200 cards taken out, and 1143 books issued, of which 578 were fiction and 565 other works. Mr Foss weighed the pros and cons, and amusingly confuted the manifold objections raised against the innovation, stating that the aim of a public library had always been to allow patrons to have books when they wanted them, and it should, in addition, let them have them where they wanted them; it was a means of increasing the summer circulation, and preventing books from lying idle on the shelves.

Miss Tracy of the Forbes library, Northampton, then gave a short account of the work of the Bay State branch of the library with the mill hands in that district, an experiment begun by taking 50 books from the library and issuing them from a store, the use of which was given by the owner until the mill office was offered for the purpose, in recognition of the work being attempted with the mill hands. The electric road carries the book baskets free on condition that the transportation is within specified hours, and the cost to the library simply consists of the carfares of the assistants.

Miss Jackson of North Adams then said a few words on the topic of inter-library loans, advocating the desirability of referring readers to libraries in the immediate vicinity where the required information could be found, and describing their experience in the matter of borrowing from larger libraries.

Mr Jackson then called attention to the bill for a library post, now before congress, for which approval was asked at the Montreal meeting of the A. L. A., which provides for a uniform rate of 1c. per pound on books, and said that in Canada such a law already existed and

worked well. Mr Cutter moved that a message be formulated to approve this bill, and was seconded by Mr Foss, but this motion was defeated and laid on the table on the motion of Mr Ballard of Pittsburg and Mr Jones of Salem, both of whom considered it inexpedient owing to other legislation in this direction.

The joint meetings of the two clubs then broke up with many expressions of appreciation of their kind reception in all places visited, and returning to town by trolley were later driven over the beautiful Berkshire hills, the Switzerland of America, in glorious, but somewhat warm weather, to the Hoosac Tunnel station, there to be transported after a delightful meeting to their various destinations. M. S. R. JAMES,

Librarian of Library Bureau, Boston.

Minnesota Library Association

The eighth annual meeting of the Minnesota Library association was held at Winona, October 1-2. The meeting opened with an address of welcome from F. S. Bell, president of the Library board of Winona. After a brief response by Dr Folwell the first paper was read by Miss Baldwin, librarian of the Minnesota Library commission, on the Progress of the State library commission. Miss Baldwin said in part:

Progress of the Minnesota State library commission

The commission has been at work about a year.

Circulars were sent out announcing the object of the commission, and applications for traveling libraries came in faster than they could be filled.

Out of the 60 libraries sent out, two-thirds have gone to country districts or to towns of only a few hundred inhabitants.

The commission urges in every case the formation of free libraries, supported by taxation. Within the past year three towns and one village have passed the law appropriating the one mill tax for a public library.

Libraries have been started in other towns by efforts of individuals.

A summer library school was established at the university last summer. There were 13 regular students, and three more for cataloging work.

The commission is gradually accumulating a large number of back numbers of periodicals to be furnished at a slight expense.

We hope gradually to become a bureau of information for all the libraries in the state.

At the close of Miss Baldwin's address Miss Clark of Winona gave a beautiful piano solo by Mendelssohn.

This was followed by a paper by Miss Farr, librarian of the normal school at Mankato, on the Library in educational work. Miss Farr said in part:

The taste for reading should be improved through the schools and library. A busy librarian cannot give care and thought to individual cases.

The utilitarian side of library work must not be overlooked. There are men and boys eager for self-improvement along special lines, and their only hope is through the library.

The most promising work is with the children.

A library must be well supplied with reference books.

Many teachers are ignorant of library methods. Many are unfamiliar with Poole's index, and books of general reference, and quite unprepared to direct the children's reading.

The real educational work of the library must begin with the teachers. The librarian should make their acquaintance and try to enlist their interest.

Lists of new juvenile books in the library might be sent to the school.

The library and the schools are coming closer together year by year, but only by continued agitation will the end be accomplished.

Lectures and classroom work, however able, often tend to dwarf one's judgment and originality, but work done in a library cultivates the powers of discrimination and research.

Facts pass from the memory, but if one has learned to seek the fountain-head he may refresh himself at will.

This was followed by a paper by Miss Hess of the St Paul public library, who told a long and entertaining story of the humorous happenings at the desk.

A very interesting and helpful paper was next read by Miss Crafts, assistant in the University of Minnesota library, on The reading of the young, in which she made a strong plea for less of juvenile literature and more of the standard authors for young readers. Miss Craft's paper will appear in full later in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The meeting then adjourned.

The visitors were shown over the beautiful public library, the gift of Mr Laird of Winona to the city, and were delighted with its beautiful rooms and appliances.

On Monday afternoon the entire party of visitors was taken for a boat-ride on the Mississippi river by Mr Bell. All were much impressed by the magnificent scenery that lined the shores on either side of the stream.

The evening session was opened by a beautiful vocal solo by Miss Cunningham of Winona. Dr Hosmer of Minneapolis was the speaker of the evening and delivered a most entertaining and instructive lecture on How Napoleon sold Louisiana and fought a great battle about it, which history has neglected. His audience was highly pleased. At the close of Dr Hosmer's lecture Miss Staples of Winona read a selection from F. Hopkinson Smith, The water-logged town, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

The first exercise on Tuesday morning was a practical demonstration in Book-binding and repairing, by Otto Wolff of Winona. His hearers were deeply interested in his talk, and were slow to cease asking for more.

The next exercise was a paper on Newspaper clippings, by Miss Lyon of Fergus Falls. She divided her topic into two sections, What to save, and How to keep it. Its many good suggestions will appear in a later number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The following officers for the next year were elected and the meeting ad-

journed: Alice N. Farr, Mankato, president; Dr W. W. Folwell, Minneapolis, vice-president; Minnie A. McGraw, Mankato, secretary; Mrs L. G. Tandy, Red Wing, treasurer.

MINNIE MCGRAW, Sec'y.

New York Library Association

The tenth annual meeting of the New York Library association, held at Lake Placid, September 26-28, was a most successful and inspiring one. It is difficult to convey any adequate impression of an informal conference of five sessions, which by common consent was the brightest of the kind ever held, and largely because of a short formal program and abundant opportunity for discussion and comment. There were about 80 in attendance, the gathering representing library workers not only from our own state, but also from other states and Canada. A goodly number of trustees lent their presence and encouragement, and men of letters honored the sessions.

The formal meetings opened on Wednesday morning, September 26, with a ringing address from the president of the association, Dr James H. Canfield, librarian of Columbia university. The contrast between the librarian of the olden time, who was never happier than when every book was in its place on the shelf, and the librarian of today, who was recognized as a central factor in university life, and as a moving factor in all life, was presented in a new light, emphasizing strongly how a new class of public servants—the library folk—had been created. It was now the business of librarians to make the calling a profession. The speaker considered that to create a profession it was necessary that all its members should be peculiarly qualified by study for the work, since a special object demanded a special preparation. Practice and theory should be joined to experience. The workers must not only see clearly but far; and recognizing the largeness and extent of the work, must be willing to wait for the largest and broadest result of their labor.

Great stress was laid on the willingness to wait. It was better to work with a community five years, and bring it intelligently to one's point of view, than to work out one's problems brilliantly and in a short time, without the accompanying intelligence of the public. The librarian must ever be hopeful, imbued with kindling enthusiasm and abiding energy, farseeing, willing to wait and bide his time, and never willing to be defeated under any circumstances.

The wise administration and organization of libraries was touched upon.

He believed that all libraries having any considerable staff ought so to be managed that they would remain efficient should the chief librarian be absent for some considerable time. He advocated imposing responsibilities, by putting the right man or the right woman in the right place, and thus securing a continuous working of all the departments, regardless of the immediate presence of the chief.

The second point enlarged upon in the address was work with the young, and the definite relations of libraries to good citizenship, especially through the young, was the keynote struck. It is necessary for the librarian to work for the future status of the community; let the children be gathered in, and through books given new visions of a new land and a new life. There is no danger of negligence in the matter, or of overlooking the young folks, but the subject must be considered often, that the library may surely become the best and nearest friend that a child has. It is possible to make an indelible impression on the land through the children, just as it is possible to make our work a profession.

A general discussion on the public school and the public library followed on the questions suggested by Dr Canfield—Have the libraries determined on the best way to reach the young? Are we really getting at the heart of the matter, so that the current is setting toward us? Are we in earnest in this matter, or working at it only superficially? What may we do for the public schools? The

earnest discussion of these questions was opened by Mr Elmendorf, who emphasized again the need of the work, the promise of it, and its ethical side. The test of successful library work will be whether we make good citizens or not. It is our manifest duty to impress on the child that his time for education has but commenced when he leaves school, so let the library be the heart of the school, and to this end stand close to the teacher. Mr Elmendorf unfolded various plans that were being tried in Buffalo, as a possible solution of this great problem. Mr Gaillard of the Webster free library, New York city, Miss James of the Osterhout library, Wilkes Barre, and Mr Peck of the Free library, Gloversville, continued the discussion.

The first paper of the evening session, The library and the Young men's Christian association, by George B. Hodge, educational secretary international committee Y. M. C. A., introduced a new line for library workers to follow. The paper dwelt at some length on the libraries and reading-rooms of the Y. M. C. A. as at present conducted and used, and the work of the educational classes, showing that the aim was to create a living, permanent interest among the students for the habitual reading of good books, and that as in the public schools, there must be a vital connection between these classes and other departments of the Y. M. C. A. and the public library. [This paper will appear later in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.]

Mr Eastman opened the discussion on the paper, by emphasizing the points of coöperation that were suggested. He held that the young men should have their part and share in the public library and help it; they must not entirely neglect the library for the Y. M. C. A., but rather should they go there for their books, because young men as citizens should be interested in it. Mr Dewey, Dr Canfield, and Mr Elmendorf, who participated in the discussion, spoke of the desirability of coöperation with the Y. M. C. A., their opinion being that the associations should have refer-

ence books only, and the circulation for home use should be from the public library, in order not to duplicate work. One speaker suggested that in small villages and towns the Y. M. C. A. and library could well be in the same building, rather than to attempt two separate existences, while in cities the Y. M. C. A. could be used as a branch of the public library, as had been suggested.

Upon the close of the discussion Francis W. Halsey read an interesting paper on Book reviewing, the old order and the new, in which he alluded to several instances when books now regarded as masterpieces were rejected by several publishers before one ventured to take them. Mr Halsey spoke of the verdicts pronounced by the heart of mankind, verdicts the force and certainty of which we see in the preservation of the classics, few of which in any generation have more than the smallest percentage of educated people among their readers. Criticism shines as by a borrowed light; it must always be an ephemeral thing, said Mr Halsey, referring to Lowell's critical writings, which reached the highest altitudes. It was pointed out that the charm, the learning, the wit and the insight which add to the attractive qualities of Lowell's letters would find readers for them when his literary criticism might be unread. The speaker referred to the desirability, when reviewing books, of refraining from alluding to those that were valueless or harmful. Let librarians and editors inform the public with clearness and good judgment as to the contents of books which, while they may not be classed as real literature—of which there is but a small sum from year to year—yet have positive value and some actual utility in the life of man today.

Melvin G. Dodge, librarian of Hamilton college, opened the session on Thursday morning with a paper on the Twentieth century library and the farmer. The farmer is no longer to be considered an isolated factor, for with the advent of electric cars and long distance telephones, a new era is opening for him which will remove his isolation,

and help him feel the heart-throbs of the world. The farmers' institute, university extension, and the rounding out of this system by affording the necessary books, the work of the Department of agriculture at Washington, and of some of the states in marking out reading courses and distributing literature among the farmers, are all prominent factors in this change in rural life. The traveling library is the present hope of the farming districts, but that large libraries will grow up in the country is not a Utopian dream. There is need, however, of a more thorough awakening among librarians to this phase of library extension.

The new thoughts suggested by Mr Dodge's paper led to an animated discussion in which many issues were touched upon. Miss Titcomb, Mr Case, Dr Canfield, Mrs Elmendorf, Mr Dewey, Miss Avery, Mrs Dewey, Mr Griswold, Mrs Craigie, and Mr Eastman joined the discussion. Miss Titcomb told of the large work before the State library commissioners in instructing the librarians of the libraries in rural communities, especially as to the needs of the community regarding books. They must be given the right idea of how to get the books before their public, as well as what books to put upon their shelves. Inspire these librarians with the higher life of the community that is to come through books, and let the technical matters wait. Some of the speakers dwelt on the special adaptation of the traveling library to rural communities, and various methods of circulating the books were suggested, such as keeping the library in the postoffice, or sending the books out by the butcher or baker, or even, when the twentieth century rolls around, of the librarian taking regular trips to exchange and distribute books, the traveling library thus being the seed which would develop into the full grown plant of a public library for these communities.

Dr Canfield held that the hope of agriculture lay in the public library. He commended the useful work that the traveling libraries were doing, and

had yet to do, but it must not be overlooked that their greatest mission was to lead to the development of a permanent rural public library. Such a library was needed, not only for the village center, but for all those depending on it from the country round. He suggested that library bulletins in the village post-office would be a great help, and that a library column in the weekly newspaper would be very successful in securing and keeping readers. Personal invitations must be extended to the farmers and their wives to visit the library, and to make it their headquarters when in town. In fact, as in all other phases of library work, the essential thing in the success of rural libraries is the missionary spirit of the librarian. Mr Dewey considered that the country districts offered the best opportunity now for good library work, and that the question of their existence and organization was a most vital one. The work must be done on the ground, and some one must be on hand to lend vigor and vitality to the movement. Mr Eastman closed the discussion by outlining some of the practical problems of organization and administration in rural communities, his experience making his words authoritative.

Another topic which evoked a very lively discussion, and which seemed to be by no means exhausted when it closed, was that of library schools as a means of making competent librarians. It was contended by Mr Brandagee that librarianship, as a profession, in these matters, was very much like the law. A school might train a person in the principles and details of the calling, but it was highly important to have it supplemented by practical experience. He cited the fact that the court of appeals required actual office work in candidates for admission to the bar, and believed that, before a librarian could be said to pursue a professional calling, he also should have had actual experience for some considerable time in a working library.

The subject of Sunday-school libraries, past, present, and future, was taken up by the Rev. Dr Jesse L. Hurlbut of

New York. As to the future, Dr Hurlbut believed that, in many cases, such libraries should be merged into the public library of the town. They had passed their usefulness—at least that kind of Sunday-school library formed on the old lines of books whose purpose was to teach a moral lesson. It is a well-known fact that Sunday-school libraries in late years have been made to embrace a considerable representation of general literature of the class that includes what we know as standard authors; they are losing their distinctly religious character and are becoming secular. This tendency foreshadows the final merging of these collections of books into the library of the town.

It was announced that J. N. Larned of Buffalo had given his own time, without compensation, to the preparation of a very important bibliographical work pertaining to history, and that the cost of its publication had been defrayed by George Iles. A resolution of emphatic thanks to Mr Iles, amid much applause, was passed. In the resolution this cost was stated to be \$5000. After the resolution had been passed the fact was disclosed that the cost had been \$10,000. Dr Canfield instructed the secretary to multiply the resolution by two.

As an outcome of this year's meeting the Lake Placid club has been made the permanent meeting place for the gatherings of the association.

It was further determined to bestow upon the annual meeting a distinctive character by calling it Library week, and it was the general sentiment that an effort should be made to induce librarians from states bordering on New York state to attend. It is hoped that Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Canada may have librarians present every year.

The officers elected for the coming year are as follows: President, H. L. Elmendorf, Buffalo public library; vice-president, W. H. Austin, Cornell university library, Ithaca; secretary, M. E. Hazeltine, James Prendergast Free library, Jamestown; treasurer, J. N. Wing, New York Free circulating library.

National Association of State Librarians

The next meeting of the National association of State librarians will be held in Harrisburg, Pa., November 21-22. An informal welcome to delegates will be extended in the capitol building on the evening of November 20. Following is the program:

What books should a state library aim to get? Mabel Thayer, State librarian of Illinois.

To what extent should the state library keep files of newspapers published outside of the state? L. D. Carver, State librarian of Maine.

Should the library commission of the state be identical with the governing board of the state library? Arthur H. Chase, State librarian of New Hampshire.

Relation of state librarians to the Library of congress. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of congress.

Printed catalogs for state library. Dr Geo. Edward Reed, State librarian of Pennsylvania.

How may government documents be made more useful to the public? Adelaide R. Hasse.

Relations of state library, state law library, and state historical society. W. E. Henry, State librarian of Indiana.

To what extent should the books of the state library be loaned to the citizens of the state? Melvil Dewey, director of State library of New York.

Collection and preservation of newspaper clippings upon historical, geneological, and biographical subjects. C. B. Tillinghast, State librarian of Massachusetts.

To what extent should the state library enter the field of the state museum? H. C. Buchanan, State librarian of New Jersey.

L. C. Ferrell, superintendent of public documents, has been invited to address the association, and is expected to be present.

At a similar meeting in 1889, 27 states were represented and much good was accomplished. Increased interest and activity in many states, and new questions that have been raised in regard to the true mission of the state library, ought to bring a good attendance to the Harrisburg meeting. Ample opportunity will be given for discussion. Personal contact, interchange of views, and reports from the different states will throw new light on the subject of state library administration.

The importance of such a meeting cannot be better set forth than in the

words of Melvil Dewey in an address to State librarians Aug. 7, 1890. He said in part:

It is highly desirable that your library be represented. If it is impossible for you to be present, will you not authorize some one to come who can act as your proxy in discussion?

I am profoundly convinced, after 18 years' study of general library interests, that the greatest future development lies before the state libraries. They have the largest and wealthiest constituencies, the greatest possibilities for exchanges and gifts, and infinitely the largest opportunity for helpfulness to the library and educational interests of each state. We speak not of what has been, but of what may be, and what in some states is clearly soon to be. The Association of state librarians, however, is as much a place for those who wish to improve the old field as for those who aim to broaden the scope.

Is it not both privilege and duty to dignify and strengthen the institution over which we have been called to preside?

Let every State librarian and every friend of the State library aid in making the coming meeting a signal success.

C. B. GALBREATH, Pres.,
Columbus, Ohio.

An Ideal Librarian

The perfect librarian is a subjective being, and moves more within than without the world of books that surrounds him. He is subdued to the reverence of what he works in, and has the student's perceptions, discreet and catholic. He helps to create the ambient with which a library should be permeated, and even to those who have no feeling for the right spirit of the place his manners and personality are an instruction, unconsciously absorbed, and leading them to a humaner attitude. In short, the most precious qualifications that a librarian can have are precisely such as cannot be taught; exactly as is the case with teachers, and very notably with the teachers of the primary grades of education, whose true efficiency is dependent upon some priceless personal gifts which are wholly incommunicable.—Scribner's magazine, The point of view.

Library Schools

Drexel

Flora B. Roberts, class of '99, has been appointed instructor in the school in place of Miss Farr, who has been compelled to give up teaching on account of ill health.

Marjorie L. Holmes, class of '99, died suddenly in Bermuda, where she had gone for her vacation. Miss Holmes was for the past year the assistant in charge of the delivery desk, Drexel institute library.

Alterations in the library have been made in order to have better accommodations for the art books, which have been increasing in numbers. The library has a good collection of photographs which are now in the large art alcove, thus bringing together everything in the library which will be useful to art students.

The following states are represented in the students who were enrolled in the library school, which opened the new year on October 1:

Kansas, 1; Missouri, 1; New Jersey, 2; Michigan, 1; Illinois, 1; New York, 2; Maine, 3; Massachusetts, 2; Pennsylvania, 6.

ALICE B. KROGER.

Illinois

Instruction began September 19. At that time 17 seniors and 28 juniors had registered. The new students represent the following institutions: Bradley Polytechnic institute, Doane college, Illinois Wesleyan university, Iowa Wesleyan university, Lenox college, Northwestern university, Oxford college, Wesleyan university (Middletown), and the universities of Cincinnati, Illinois, Nebraska, and Wisconsin, ten coming from the University of Illinois. Eight of the juniors have college degrees.

The following home states are represented by the juniors: Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Hawaii.

Among the students at work are the following:

Georgetta Haven, 1900, assistant cataloger Cincinnati public library; Tor-

stein Jahr, 1900, organizer Lutheran college, Decorah, Iowa; Anna M. Price, 1900, organizer University of South Dakota; Ida Sawyer, 1900, assistant librarian Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, Ill.; Gertrude Shawhan, 1900, cataloger Library of congress; Adam J. Strohm, 1900, librarian Armour institute of technology, Chicago, Ill.; Caroline Wandell, 1900, assistant organizer Oxford (N. Y.) public library; W. O. Waters, 1900, order clerk University of Illinois; Lucy B. Ely Willcox, 1900, loan desk assistant University of Illinois; Helen P. Bennett, 1901, librarian Mattoon (Ill.) public library; Mabel K. Davidson, 1901, assistant Joliet (Ill.) public library; Mary Thompson, 1901, assistant Newberry library, Chicago.

New York

The fifteenth school year opened auspiciously on the morning of October 3; 48 students matriculated, 14 in the senior class, 34 in the junior class. Of this number 12 are men, 36 women. The school is larger than in any previous year, and for the first time in its history, 1887-1900, every student has had some college work; 43 out of 48 hold a college degree; of the remaining 5, 2 have had one year in college, two 2 years, and 1 four years, the latter taking a special course received no degree.

The following is an interesting classification of students by colleges:

Smith	6	Central Wesleyan..	1
Harvard	5	Colby	1
Vassar.....	5	Pritchett.....	1
Stanford.....	4	Stetson.....	1
Wellesley.....	4	Union.....	1
Mt Holyoke.....	3	University of Cin-	
Alleghany.....	2	cinnati.....	1
Bowdoin.....	2	Washburn.....	1
Radcliffe.....	2	Western.....	1
University of Mich-	2	Western Reserve..	1
igan.....	2	Wesleyan.....	1
University of Ne-		Williams.....	1
braska.....	2		

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Calendar for fifteenth school year, 1900-1901

School opens Wednesday a. m., October 3.

Election day, holiday, Tuesday, November 6.

Thanksgiving recess begins Wednesday noon, November 28.

Lectures begin Monday p. m., December 3.

Christmas recess begins Saturday a. m., December 22.

Lectures begin Thursday a. m., January 3.

Lincoln's birthday, holiday, Tuesday, February 12.

Washington's birthday, holiday, Friday, February 22.

Course examinations begin Wednesday a. m., March 27; end Friday p. m., March 29.

Visit to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington libraries begins Tuesday evening, April 9; ends April 22.

Lectures begin Tuesday a. m., April 23.

Memorial day, holiday, Thursday, May 30.

Summer course begins Friday a. m., May 31.

Entrance examinations begin Tuesday a. m., June 18.

Course examinations begin Tuesday a. m., June 25.

School closes Friday p. m., June 28.

Summer course closes Thursday p. m., July 11.

Among our students at work are the following:

Marie Martin Smith, 1899-1900, has been appointed assistant in the Buffalo public library.

Mary Louise Prentiss, 1899-1900, has been appointed assistant in Bryn Mawr college library.

Edward Harmon Virgin, 1899-1900, has been appointed assistant in Harvard university library.

Bertha Evelyn Hyatt, class of '99, has been appointed assistant in the Catalog department of the New York state library.

Marion Ada Knight, class of 1900, who has been appointed assistant in the Carnegie library of Pittsburg, Pa., is working in the lines of cataloging and book annotation.

Isadore Gilbert Mudge, B. L. S. class

of 1920, has been appointed reference librarian in the University of Illinois, and instructor in reference work and selection of books in the library school.

SALOME CUTLER FAIRCHILD.

Pratt

Charles E. Wright, class of '97, has resigned the librarianship of the Erie (Pa.) public library to undertake that of the Andrew Carnegie library at Carnegie, Pa. He will enter upon his duties November 1.

The entering class for the first year course of 1900-1901 has representatives from the following states: Wisconsin, 1; Connecticut, 1; Pennsylvania, 1; New Hampshire, 1; Illinois, 1; Massachusetts, 5; New York, 6; Kansas, 1; New Jersey, 2; Maine, 1. Five students of last year are taking second year courses. Three students are taking the historical course for second year's course, and four students are taking children's librarian's course.

The following students have secured permanent positions: Norma Bennett, Pratt institute free library; Ada G. Chapple, Library of congress; Katharine Dame, Library of Cornell university; W. H. Duncan, Jr., Library of University club, New York city; Margaret A. Gash, Pratt institute free library; Mrs Adelaide B. Maltby, Pratt institute free library; Mabel F. Robinson, Cincinnati public library; Frances Danner Thomson, Library of Jacob Tome institute, Port Deposit, Md.

Many members of the American Library Association who remember the bright little boy Frederick Crunden, who several times was present at the A. L. A. gatherings with his parents, Mr and Mrs F. M. Crunden of St Louis, will hear with deep regret of his untimely death by diphtheria on October 27. The only child of unusually fond parents, the sad bereavement calls forth sincere sympathy from many friends.

News from the Field

East

John L. Graves, of Boston, has given \$10,000 for a library and its equipment, to Sunderland, Mass.

Central Falls, R. I., has received a gift of \$35,000 by the will of the late S. L. Adams, for a public library.

The late Edwin H. Bugbee of Danielson, Conn., bequeathed \$15,000 and his private library to the public library of that town.

As a result of the meeting of the Western Massachusetts club the North Adams public library has done away with the age limit for registration.

Nancy M. Pond, B. L. S. New York State library school, class of '96, has been appointed librarian of the Peck library and curator of the Slater Art museum, Norwich, Conn.

The forty-eighth report of the Boston public library gives the number of volumes in the library as 748,383. The heaviest expenditure for books was for English fiction, which absorbed nearly 30 per cent of the appropriation. The number of missing books is 810. The circulation reached 1,360,000 books.

Dr Charles J. Hoadley, State librarian of Connecticut, died October 26, after a long illness due to breaking down of his system. He was 72 years old. Graduated at Trinity college in 1851, he received the degree of M. A. there in 1854, and of LL.D. in 1879, and the degree of M. A. from Yale in 1879. In 1870 he was appointed state librarian.

Central Atlantic

Florence R. Curtis, graduate of the New York State library school, class of '96, has been appointed librarian of the State normal school, Potsdam, N. Y.

Florence A. Paine of the New York State library school, class of 1900, has been appointed vice-director's assistant in the New York State library school.

Wilkesburg, Pa., is to have \$50,000 from Andrew Carnegie for a public li-

brary building. The city will furnish a site and \$5,000 a year for administration.

Phineas L. Windsor of the New York State library school, class of '99, has been appointed to a position in charge of the cataloging of the copyright division of the Library of congress.

Henry W. Kent of the New York State library school, class of '90, has resigned his position as librarian of the Peck library and curator of the Slater Art museum, Norwich, Conn., to become librarian of the Grolier club, New York city.

The corner-stone of the public library presented to Newark, N. Y., by Henry C. Rew of Chicago, was laid October 17 by the Grand Master of the Masonic order of the state, C. W. Mead, with impressive ceremonies. Ono M. Imhoff, who has been at the Carnegie library in Pittsburg, will organize the new library.

The trustees of the Washington county Free library today received from B. F. Newcomer, of Baltimore, a native of Washington county, a \$50,000 bond, as a donation for the free library, work on which began recently. A check for \$1250, interest accumulating on the bond from June last, accompanied the generous gift.

A recent report of Pratt institute free library of Brooklyn, gives the following interesting facts: The library has over 70,000v. on its shelves. Reference use of the library is free to all; house use is limited to residents of Brooklyn, non-resident students of the institute, and visitors to the city furnishing satisfactory Brooklyn references. All borrowers are allowed two books, of which one may be fiction, and teachers may have in addition to these six books, non-fiction, for schoolroom use. The library is open daily, except Sundays and holidays. In the reading-room are 13 newspapers and over 300 periodicals. The children's room in this library contains about 2500 books. On the second floor of the building is the reference department, consisting of over 17,000

books, and occupying two rooms. On the third floor are the art reference department and the exhibition room. There are more than 1000v. in the art department. The room also contains a reference collection of 16,298 photographs.

Central

Catherine D. Paddock, New York '98-'99, has been appointed to index the library of the Western society of engineers in Chicago.

Bertha Brown of the New York State library school, class of 1900, has been appointed librarian of the Eau Claire (Wis.) public library.

Carrie Silliman of the New York State library school, class of '99-1900, has been made librarian of the Normal school at River Falls, Wis.

Stanley, Wis., has received a gift of \$8000 for a public library building from the D. R. Moon estate. About \$4000 will be spent for equipment.

William L. Rowland, librarian of the Rockford (Ill.) public library since the founding of that institution in 1872, died September 27. He was born in Connecticut in 1831, and was graduated from Yale in 1852.

The magnificent library building of the Wisconsin State historical society, which has been under construction for the past three years, was formally dedicated October 19, in the presence of a large and distinguished assemblage.

The public library of Monroe, Mich., which bears the distinction of being the oldest public library in the state, has moved into elegant new quarters, and has enlarged its facilities for serving the public in books and other material as well.

One of the finest collections of historical material relating to the Mississippi Valley in the country, has been given to the public library of Logansport, Ind. It was gathered by the late Judge Horace P. Biddle, who was deeply interested in historical research for over 60 years.

Originals of maps, drafts, etc., of great value are in the collection.

The Illinois Federation of women's clubs at its recent meeting appointed the following committee on library extension: Mrs Florence Inglass, River Forest; Mrs Paul Selby, Chicago; Marie Dupuis, Savanna; Mrs Nannie Q. Quill, La Harpe; Mrs Emma Wood, Argyle Park; Mrs A. B. Dodge, Dixon; Mrs Caroline A. Kimball, Bloomington.

The State library of Michigan has sent out a comprehensive report of the traveling libraries of that state; 606 libraries have circulated through 257 stations in one year and 10 months, special reports from most of the traveling libraries, showing the use and influence of the books, are given. A dotted map gives the area covered by the libraries.

An experimental air-washer in the Chicago public library promised so well that the authorities have decided to install a plant capable of purifying sufficient air for the entire building. It is a simple process. The air is drawn into a box through a system of water sprays and over a series of metal plates. The sprays take out all the shavings, bits of straw and paper, filaments of cotton and wool, etc., which float out of a drain at the bottom of the box. The damp air is then forced over another series of plates by a great fan. These plates are set at slight angles to each other and have flanges which, as the air passes around them, catch the dirt. It is said that if a person's hand is inserted in this compartment it will quickly become black with dirt. In summer the air which emerges from the ventilators is cool but dry, while in winter it will be warmed by first passing over steam pipes. Injury to the books and to the mural decorations prompted the plan for the cleansing of the air, but patrons of the library will profit quite as much as the books and the paintings. Not only does the apparatus remove the dirt, but the odors as well, and, presumably, many germs.

South

The Northwest academy building at Albuquerque, N. M., was presented to the city for a public library building on October 15.

The corner-stone of the Atlanta public library, the gift of Andrew Carnegie, was laid with appropriate ceremonies September 28.

Irene D. Galloway, of Fayetteville, Ark., has been elected librarian of Shorter college, Rome, Ga. The library of 5000v. is to be classified and cataloged.

West

The State library of Kansas has moved into its new quarters.

Faith Smith of the New York State library school, class of 1900, has been appointed librarian of the Sedalia (Mo.) public library.

Hannibal, Mo., has received a gift of \$125,000 for a public library building from the family of the late Col. Garth, as a memorial to the latter.

Salt Lake City, Utah, has received a gift of 95,000 for a library site and building from J. Q. Packard, on condition that the city maintain and support it as a public library.

J. F. Davies, formerly librarian of Butte, Mont., has been employed to classify and catalog the libraries in all the state institutions of Montana, beginning with the State university at Missoula, November 1.

Pacific Coast

Anna Fossler of the New York State library school, class of '99, has been appointed head cataloger in the University of California.

The State Normal school library at Chico, Cal., reopened September 5. During the summer a reading-room was added to the main library, which greatly increases the facilities for reference work. The library has 8750v.

Mary F. Williams, B. L. S., New York State library school, class of '99, has resigned her position as vice director's assistant in the New York State library school, to take a position in charge of

the classification and catalog department of the Mechanics institute library, San Francisco.

The public library building at Pasadena, Cal., has been extended to double its former size, the addition gives room for a new reference room, a children's department, and one for fiction. More space is also given for workrooms for the staff. The old rooms have been redecorated, rearranged, and altogether are more convenient and pleasant.

Canada

McGill university library, through the help of the family of the late Hugh McLennan, will shortly establish a system of traveling libraries through the schools of Montreal.

Foreign

Sir Henry Wentworth Dyke Acland, Radcliffe librarian at Oxford university since 1851, died October 15.

Andrew Carnegie has promised the Greenock, Scotland, town council £5,000 to found a public library.

Andrew Carnegie has presented the town of Hawick, Roxburghshire, with the sum of £10,000 for a public library.

The secretary of war has ordered that the sum of \$5000 from the customs receipts in the Philippines shall be appropriated in aid of the American library in Manila.

The International congress of librarians, which has just closed its session in Paris, has promulgated an offer of two prizes for the most useful pamphlet on the subject of insects destructive to books, and the best method of preventing their ravages.

The report of the public library of New South Wales, at Sydney, shows a most active library life in that institution. The books in the library now number of 144,124v.; in the lending department, 26,231v.; circulation, 110,548v. Of this 34.9 per cent was fiction. Number of traveling libraries 161, containing 9259v. In addition, 14,155v. were sent to 130 country centers. Donations to the library for the year amounted to 13,658v. and 50 pictures, at a total value of £6595.

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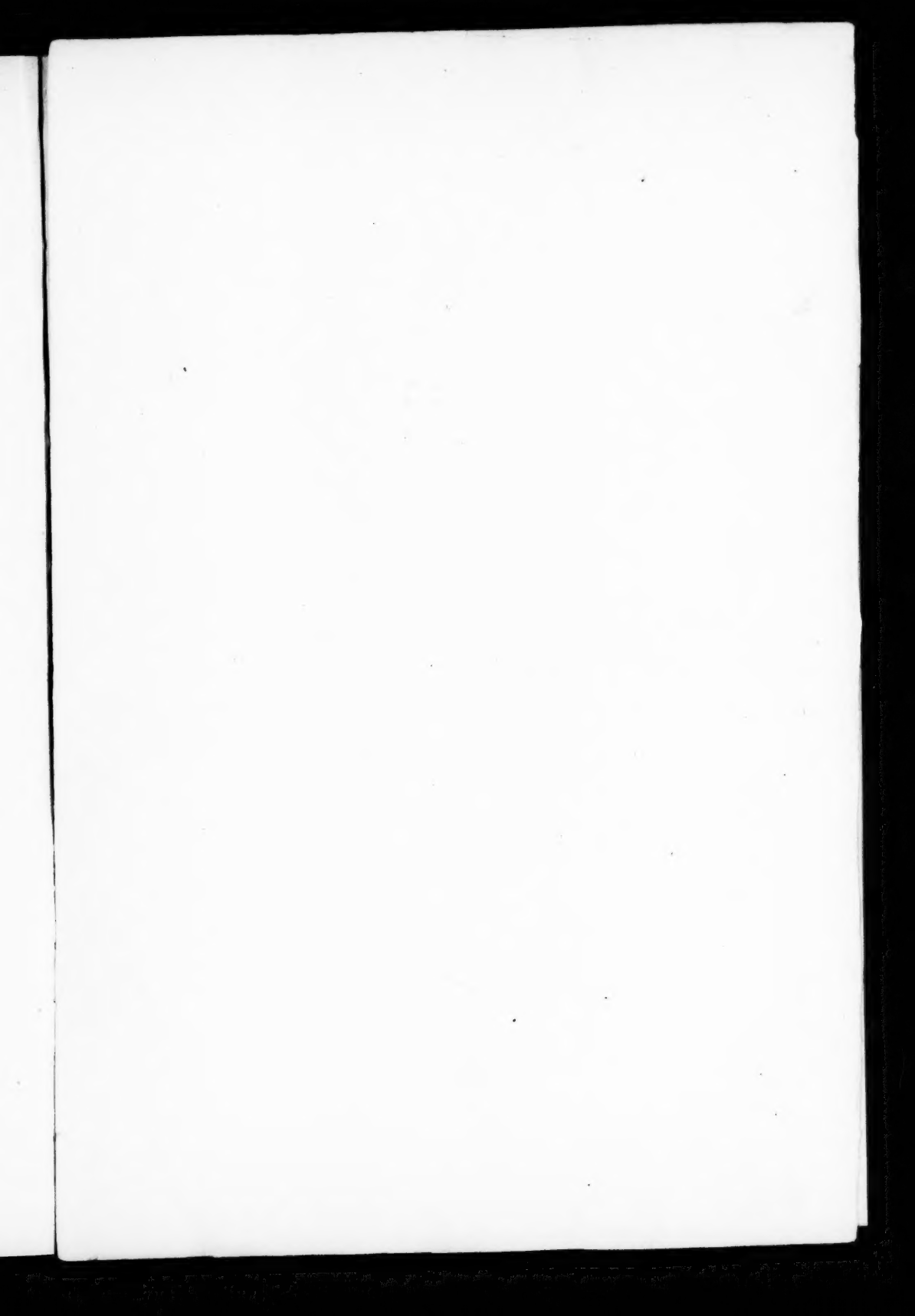
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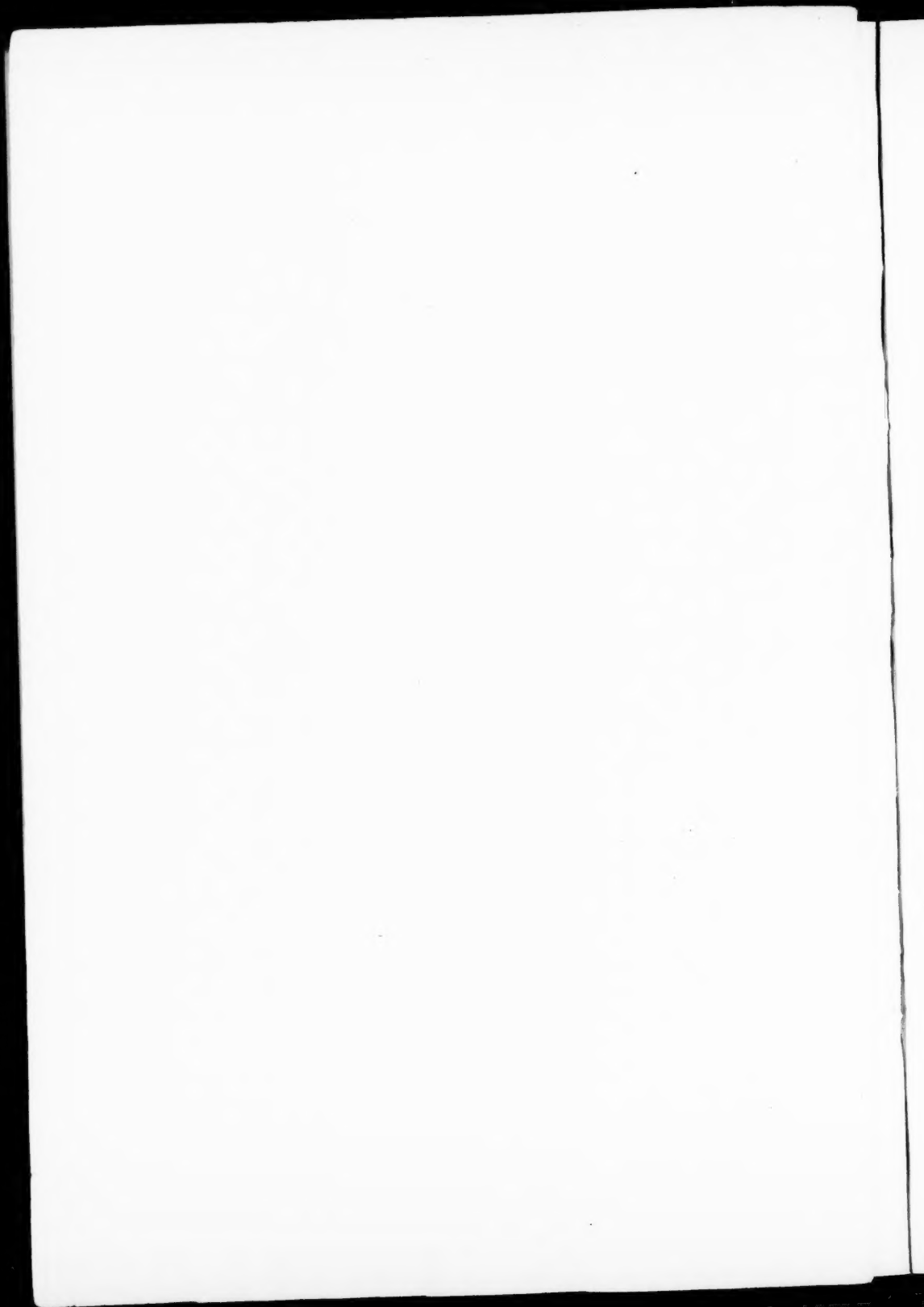
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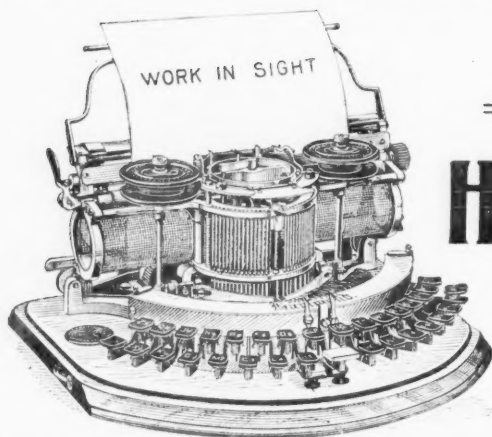
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